# Daily Report

# Soviet Union

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*FBIS-SOV-88-128* *5 July 1988*

CONTENTS


**ARMS CONTROL & DISARMAMENT**

General Chervov Interviewed on Disarmament *[Belgrade TANJUG]* ..... 1
Chervov Cited on NATO Modernization Plans ..... 1
U.S. Report Examines Upgrading NATO Forces ..... 2
U.S. Plan for Experimental SDI Testing Noted ..... 2
'Mandate' Talks Session Held in Vienna ..... 2
'No Progress' Observed *[Solton]* ..... 2
Belgian Government To Allow Soviet Inspections ..... 3
Mobile Crane Built on SS-20 Missile Chassis ..... 3
SS-12 Missiles Dismantled in Novosysoyevka ..... 3
Soviet, U.S. INF Inspectors Travel to Sites ..... 3
Lajoie's U.S. Team Arrives ..... 3
Lebedev Remarks Cited ..... 4
British Experts Visit CW Training Center ..... 4
Shikhany Visit Continues ..... 5
CW Facility Head Speaks ..... 5
UK Group Leader Comments ..... 6
News Conference on Visit ..... 6
Visit Summed Up ..... 7
Experts View UK Group's Visit ..... 7
CW Chief Comments on Visit ..... 8

**COMMUNIST RELATIONS**

Ryzhkov, Delegation Attend Prague CEMA Session ..... 9
Ryzhkov Departs Moscow ..... 9
Leaders See Off Ryzhkov ..... 9
Delegation Leaves ..... 9
Ryzhkov Arrives in Prague ..... 9
Ryzhkov Lays Wreaths ..... 9
Visits Meat Factory, Store ..... 9
Ryzhkov, Strougal Hold Talks ..... 10
Meeting of Balkan Officials Reported *[PRAVDA 25 Jun]* ..... 10

**INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

**Northeast Asia**

Yazov Takes 'Soft Stand' on Japanese Defense *[Tokyo KYODO]* ..... 11
Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Talks Viewed *[Tamarin]* ..... 11
Murakhovskiy Meets DPRK's Kim Il-song ..... 12
KCNA Cited on Provocation in DMZ ..... 13

**Southeast Asia & Pacific**

Philippine Delegation Makes 'Official Visit' ..... 13
Received by Gromyko ..... 13
Further on Talks ..... 13

### Near East & South Asia

Reportage on U.S. Downing of Iranian Airbus ..... 14
Downing Reported 3 Jul ..... 14
Pentagon Spokesman Cited ..... 14
Reagan Issues Statement ..... 14
Reagan Avoids 'Cardinal Issue' ..... 14
PRAVDA Reports Incident *[4 Jul]* ..... 14
Iranian Reaction Reported ..... 15
Vorontsov Meets Iranian Envoy ..... 15
Supreme Soviet Condolences ..... 15
Soviet Envoy Expresses 'Regret' *[Cairo MENA]* ..... 16
Gerasimov on KAL Parallel ..... 16
Further on Gerasimov Briefing ..... 16
Researcher Blames U.S. Military ..... 16
Presidential Candidates Cited ..... 17
Soviet Muslim Reaction ..... 17
Iran's UN Envoy Interviewed ..... 17
UN Chief on 'Tragic Error' ..... 17
U.S. Naval Operations Condemned ..... 18
AUCCTU on 'Barbaric Action' *[TRUD 5 Jul]* ..... 18
UK Reaction Criticized *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 5 Jul]* ..... 19
Soviet Commentary on Iranian Airbus Downing ..... 19
U.S. Should Withdraw *[Vasilyev]* ..... 19
U.S. Gulf Presence Blamed *[Biryukov]* ..... 19
'Deliberate Mass Murder' *[Pogodin]* ..... 20
U.S. Should Draw 'Conclusions' ..... 21
U.S. Arguments 'Sound Naive' *[Gan in PRAVDA 5 Jul]* ..... 21
U.S. Gulf Presence Criticized *[Kolesnichenko in PRAVDA 5 Jul]* ..... 22
Downing Not 'Technical Error' *[TRUD 5 Jul]* ..... 23
Gulf Situation Now 'More Acute' *[Serikov]* ..... 23
Iranian 'Warships' Attack Norwegian Tanker ..... 23
Procurator Announces Amnesty for Soviet POW's ..... 24

### Latin America & Caribbean

U.S. 'Armed Invasion' of Panama Previewed ..... 24
Shultz' Central American Tour Viewed ..... 25
Nicaraguan Criticism of Shultz Cited ..... 25
Nicaraguan Leader Calls for Talks With U.S. ..... 25
Nicaragua's Ortega Extends Cease-Fire ..... 25
Akhromeyev To Visit Cuba Early July ..... 26

## NATIONAL AFFAIRS

### Political & Social

Politburo Discusses Conference Decisions ..... 27
Yerevan, NKAO Enterprises Heed Strike Call *[IZVESTIYA 5 Jul]* ..... 28
Armenians Propose Nagorno-Karabakh 'Compromise' *[Belgrade TANJUG]* ..... 28
20,000 Evacuated After Toxic Gas Discharge ..... 29
Flooding in Siberia Causes Evacuation of 1,500 ..... 29

## General Chervov Interviewed on Disarmament

*LD0107185388 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1422 GMT 1 Jul 88*

[Text] Zagreb, Yugoslavia, July 1 (TANJUG)—I am an optimist and I am convinced that it would be difficult, regardless of who is to become the new U.S. President, to stop the process of disarmament no matter how much a quick one, Col. Gen. Nikolay Fedorovich Chervov, head of the Department of Disarmament Affairs to the Soviet Union's Defence Ministry, has said in an exclusive interview with START, a local fortnightly. He is one of the two main Soviet negotiators in the disarmament talks with the U.S.

The interview came as a result of a long talk on two occasions, before and after the Moscow meeting between Soviet Leader Mikhail Gorbachev and U.S. President Ronald Reagan. A lack of mutual confidence is a big brake on relations, and even negotiations, between the two superpowers, Gen. Chervov emphasised. If a true control of disarmament is desired, both sides must let experts see for themselves on the spot what should be done. There is no readiness with the U.S. for such a way of supervision over carrying disarmament out, the Soviet general said.

The Soviet Union does not agree with the U.S. scheme to have instruments deployed in outer space to send data back to the earth, Gen. Chervov stated precisely. "We do not believe that to deploy such instruments in outer space would solve the problem of strategic missiles," he said.

Explaining that such instruments could be used for guiding missiles as well, the Soviet general stressed that the Soviets had told U.S. Defence Minister Frank Carlucci that they have nothing against seeing information come from outer space but do not allow that instruments capable of guiding missiles be launched.

In reply to the question of talks between the Soviet and U.S. defence ministers in Moscow, Chervov confirmed that Dmitriy Yazov and Frank Carlucci also discussed the Iraq-Iran war and were agreed that it should be ended as soon as possible.

In explaining a new Soviet initiative on disarmament Chervov pointed out that it is being passed over in silence of set purpose in the West, elaborating that it implies a proposal for exchanges of figures from numbers of troops to numbers of weapons between the two military alliances. "They should be figures behind which to be found standing are the leading bodies of states," the Soviet general added. "If the NATO countries think that we really have an advantage, let them accept our proposal and come out with official figures and, then, let us conduct inspection together," Gen. Chervov said.

Gen. Chervov also denied that the Soviet Union wishes now to modernize its missiles.

In answering the question of possibilities for a fifth Gorbachev-Reagan meeting and for their signing an agreement on eliminating 50 percent of their strategic missiles, Gen. Chervov voiced his belief that, technically, an agreement could be prepared in three months at the latest, adding that there must be more of political good will.

"If politicians came to terms, experts would quickly do their job," he added.

"If the U.S. side shows more political will, a new agreement can be signed by this year's end," Col. Gen. Nikolay Fedorovich Chervov said.

## Chervov Cited on NATO Modernization Plans

*LD0207131188 Moscow World Service in English 1110 GMT 2 Jul 88*

[Text] Lately, high-ranking NATO officials have been talking increasingly often about their plans to modernize tactical nuclear weapons. The Supreme Allied Commander in Europe, American General John Galvin, for one called for implementing these plans several days ago in Zurich. What is behind these calls for modernization, and why have the top NATO officials concerned themselves with it? Our reporter addressed this question to Colonel General Nikolay Chervov of the Soviet General Staff.

In other words, modernization means rearmament, General Chervov said. In fact, this involves plans for replacing the missiles to be eliminated under the INF Treaty with other nuclear weapons.

What type of weapons?

Recently American Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci, himself spoke about this in a report for the congress. NATO's plans provide for the emergence of another modification of the Lance missile with longer range and greater accuracy. The United States Sixth Fleet, based on the Mediterranean, will receive already next spring its first consignment of the 300 cruise missiles capable of reaching Soviet territory.

There are plans to deploy in West Germany and Britain new planes armed with such cruise missiles, which will be capable of striking targets intended for the Pershing-2's and cruise missiles to be eliminated under the INF Treaty. In short, Gen Chervov went on to say, as a result of implementing the plans for modernization, Europe might come in for bigger arsenals of nuclear weapons after the elimination of intermediate- and shorter-range missiles than it has now.

Formally, the weapon systems envisaged by the modernization plans are not covered by the INF Treaty. In fact, however, their goal is to bypass the treaty. That is why the Soviet Union resolutely objects to modernization, the real aim of which is to rearm Europe, General Chervov pointed out.

### U.S. Report Examines Upgrading NATO Forces

*LD0407125988 Moscow TASS in English 1241 GMT 4 Jul 88*

["United States Looks for Ways To Upgrade Arms in Europe"—TASS headline]

[Text] Washington July 4 TASS—The U.S. Congressional Budget Office has circulated a report which examines several possible approaches to the question of upgrading NATO's armed forces in the light of the signing of the Soviet-U.S. INF Treaty in December 1987. The authors of the document look for ways to make up for arms that are subject to elimination under the INF Treaty through a build-up of conventional arms in Europe.

In particular, the report suggests as a 'quick version' spending 5,000 million dollars to build a 'barrier' along the border of the Federal Republic of Germany. The barrier is to consist of tank traps and other types of obstacles. They may have a positive effect on the balance forces, particularly on the first days of a conflict between NATO and the Warsaw Treaty Organization.

The authors of the study also examine the possibility of implementing a long-term programme for the modernization of NATO forces: To phase in a larger amount of up-to-date types of weapons or considerably to increase the amount of weapons which are already in service. According to the budget office estimates, such programmes would cost 48,000 million and 41,000 million dollars respectively.

There is yet another version—which, according to the authors of the report, may yield results by the middle of the 1990s—envisages the development and purchase of new types of arms to have a capability to deliver a strike immediately against the second echelon of Warsaw Treaty forces.

The report has it that if such version is practicable at all (it would cost approximately 50,000 million dollars and would be implemented only by the year 2008), it would be the most costly arms modernization programme.

### U.S. Plan for Experimental SDI Testing Noted

*LD3007213888 Moscow TASS in English 1821 GMT 30 Jun 88*

[Text] New York June 30 TASS—The Strategic Defence Command of the U.S. Army will soon conduct tests within the framework of the "Strategic Defence Initiative" (SDI). As the journal "AVIATION WEEK AND SPACE TECHNOLOGY", which is close to the Pentagon, has learnt, the tests will include an "experimental system of infrared sensors" designed by the "Hughes Aircraft Company", one of the leading contractors of the U.S. war department. According to the journal, it is to be installed on board the modified bomber "B-767". The aim of the test is to detect an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) launched from the U.S. Air Force Vandenberg Base in California before it enters the dense layers of the earth's atmosphere.

According to the Pentagon's designs, the data obtained in the course of the experiment, may lead to creating the most important components of the SDI that would ready the defences in the eventuality the other defence systems prove to be unable to beat back the ICBM attack.

### 'Mandate' Talks Session Held in Vienna

*LD0407084588 Moscow TASS in English 0838 GMT 4 Jul 88*

[Text] Vienna July 4 TASS—Another meeting within consultations between representatives of Warsaw Treaty and NATO states on drafting a mandate for future talks on cutting armed forces and conventional weapons in Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals was held here today.

### 'No Progress' Observed

*LD0107230588 Moscow World Service in English 1110 GMT 1 Jul 88*

[Text] Another meeting within the framework of consultations between representatives of the Warsaw Treaty Organization and NATO over the preparation of the mandate for future talks on the reduction of the armed forces and conventional arms in Europe, from the Atlantic to the Ural mountains region, has taken place in Vienna, Austria. Yuriy Solton has this comment:

I think that already at the current stage the negotiations could have lead to impressive results. Regretfully, this has not happened. In fact, no progress has been achieved. [Moscow in English to Great Britain and Ireland at 2200 GMT on 1 Jul broadcasts a version of this commentary in which Solton says "In fact, little progress has been achieved."] NATO officials lack the courage and, to my mind, even the desire to adopt a political decision on the proposals put forward by the Soviet Union and other countries, members of the Warsaw Treaty Organization. And these proposals give clear-cut answers to questions that NATO officials themselves put. They tried to intimidate the public on many occasions in the past and still try to do so today with the Warsaw Treaty Organization's military superiority in Europe. But to say something is one thing and to give facts confirming this is another. There are not such facts, however.

Quite a few figures have been released in the West stating the number of Soviet tanks, planes and servicemen, but these figures are often taken out of thin air. The USSR

has proposed, therefore, that in order to establish the truth official information should be exchanged about the armed forces and armaments of the two military and political alliances. On-site inspections could check this information. All they would establish will be the asymmetry, of course. Then an agreement could be reached on removing the disbalance, lowering the level of military confrontation at the same time. And then the sides could get down to a general reduction of the armed forces.

The Soviet Union proposes that the army of each side should be cut down by 500,000 men already at the first stage, and then further reductions can be carried out so that the structure of the armed forces in Europe could assume the purely defensive nature.

And what is the response of NATO representatives? They say neither yes nor no. They propose no variants of their own. The relaxation of military tension in Europe where two 3-million-men strong armies oppose one another, the armies equipped with most modern weapons including nuclear, would tell favorably on the entire world situation. What prevents us from achieving this? I'm sure it is NATO's stake on military force. I'm also convinced that NATO will have to give up this policy sooner or later. The practice of balancing on the brink of a military conflict becomes too dangerous today.

**Belgian Government To Allow Soviet Inspections**
*LD0207081788 Moscow TASS in English 0630 GMT 1 Jul 88*

[Text] Brussels July 1 TASS—The Chamber of Deputies, the lower chamber of Belgium's Parliament, declared on June 30 by an overwhelming majority of votes in favour of ratification of the agreements between Belgium and the United States, and between Belgium and the Soviet Union on inspections on the Belgian territory of American cruise missile units through the effort of Soviet inspectors. This comes under provisions of the Soviet-American Treaty on Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Nuclear Missiles.

For the ratification process to be completed, the above agreements are yet to be approved by the Senate, the Parliament's upper chamber.

A representative of the Belgian Government has announced that the Soviet inspectors can arrive in Belgium for exercising control at any time chosen by them. The lack of complete ratification of the agreements between Belgium and the United States and Belgium and the USSR on inspections, he said, shall not prevent them from exercising their functions, since the Belgian Government has already undertaken official obligations to observe the provisions of the treaty on intermediate- and shorter-range missiles.

The Soviet inspectors will be able to subject to control the U.S. missile base in Florennes and the European cruise missile technical maintenance centre in Gosselies.

**Mobile Crane Built on SS-20 Missile Chassis**
*LD0407083588 Moscow TASS in English 0708 GMT 4 Jul 88*

[Text] Odessa July 4 TASS—The first mobile crane to be used for peaceful purposes was assembled today on the chassis of a medium-range missile, known in the West as SS-20, at the heavy-duty crane building plant in Odessa today. Soviet specialists took five months to design this 80-tonne machine and work out technology to assemble it. The project also involves Poland's Bumar firm.

Work is currently under way on 100-tonne cranes mounted on SS-20 transporter vehicles. Next year nine such machines will be produced. The Soviet side proposed to the Swiss-West German firm Liebherr to take part in the project. The firm is designing a 120-tonne crane for the Odessa enterprise.

**SS-12 Missiles Dismantled in Novosysoyevka**
*LD0407091388 Moscow World Service in English 0700 GMT 4 Jul 88*

[Excerpt] At a Soviet base near the station of Novosysoyevka in the Far East, the missiles which the Americans call the SS-12 are being dismantled and sent to the sites where they will be destroyed. This is done under the Soviet-American Treaty on Eliminating Medium- and Shorter-Range Missiles. [passage omitted]

**Soviet, U.S. INF Inspectors Travel to Sites**
*LD0107210988 Moscow TASS in English 2010 GMT 1 Jul 88*

[Text] Washington July 1 TASS—A group of Soviet inspectors arrives at the U.S. air force base near San Francisco today. Under the INF Treaty the inspectors are empowered to verify compliance with the provisions of the Soviet-U.S. Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles.

This was announced by Kendell Pease, a spokesman for the On-Site Inspection Agency of the U.S. Department of Defence.

In a special press release the Pentagon also announced that a group of U.S. inspectors led by Brig. Gen. Roland Lajoie, chief of the On-Site Inspection Agency, arrives in Moscow from the U.S. Airforce base at Rhine-on-Main (FRG) on July 1.

**Lajoie's U.S. Team Arrives**
*LD0207194988 Moscow TASS in English 1935 GMT 2 Jul 88*

[Text] Moscow July 2 TASS—The arrival of U.S. inspectors in Moscow to monitor compliance with the Soviet-U.S. Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles was shown by Soviet television today.

A U.S. Air Force plane landed at Sheremetyevo Airport, bringing 29 inspectors led by Brigadier General Roland Lajoie. They will go to various regions of the USSR.

The general told a Soviet television correspondent that inspection would take two weeks, following which the group would be replaced by another one. He said that he would name the Soviet side the facilities selected for inspection some time later. After that, according to the arrangement, the group is to be sent to the Soviet facility within nine hours.

### Lebedev Remarks Cited

*LD0307081888 Moscow TASS in English 0806 GMT 3 Jul 88*

[Text] San Francisco July 3 TASS—By TASS correspondent Andrey Sidorin:

A 70-member group of Soviet inspectors has arrived at the Travis Air Force Base near San Francisco, California. Under the Soviet-U.S. Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles, they will carry out on-site inspections to verify compliance with the treaty's provisions.

"The INF Treaty signifies a new stage in Soviet-U.S. relations", Vyacheslav Lebedev, head of the Soviet group, said upon arrival at the base. "It envisions the elimination of two classes of nuclear weapons and makes the life of the peoples of our country and entire mankind safer. The treaty creates an atmosphere of trust between the USA and the Soviet Union. To guarantee mutual trust is our common task."

This is a historic moment for the two great powers, Colonel Tom Smalls, spokesman for the U.S. base, emphasized when greeting the Soviet specialists. He said that 22 inspectors would go to Magna, Utah, the site of a secret facility manufacturing Pershing-2 missiles. The remaining 48 specialists will be divided into groups to carry out inspections, at their own discretion, at all or some of the five facilities in the west of the United States, where the missiles to be destroyed under the INF Treaty are located. This is an Army depot in Pueblo, Colorado, Air Force bases at Fort Huachuka and Davis Monthan, Arizona, munitions factory No 19 of the General Dynamics Corporation in San Diego, California, and the Dugway Test Range in Utah. The duration of inspection is limited to 24 hours. However, on agreement between the sides, the inspections may be extended by another eight hours if there is a need.

At the same time a group of American inspectors led by General Roland Lajoie, the head of the On-Site Inspection Agency of the U.S. Defense Department, left for the Soviet Union.

On the whole, the Pentagon said, the Soviet and American teams of inspectors will carry out "baseline inspection" during 60 days until September 1, to verify the location, number and class of missiles to be destroyed under the INF Treaty. The Soviet team will check 26 facilities in the USA and Western Europe. The American specialists will hold inspections at 133 sites on the territory of the USSR, Czechoslovakia and the German Democratic Republic. In future each side will allow inspectors to visit elimination sites and conduct the necessary number of inspections to ensure that all weapons covered by the intermediate-range nuclear forces treaty are destroyed completely.

### British Experts Visit CW Training Center

*LD3006230988 Moscow TASS in English 2043 GMT 30 Jun 88*

[Text] Moscow June 30 TASS—Correspondent Vladimir Isachenkov writes:

The entire arsenal of means of protection against chemical weapons—special machines for decontamination, various instruments and equipment—could be seen in operation today at a training centre of chemical troops near Moscow by British experts headed by Ambassador Tessa Solesby and by Soviet and foreign journalists. The British representatives came here to return a visit by a group of Soviet experts to the British bacteriological research centre in Porton Down. The purpose of the visit is to study in detail scientific, technical and military aspects concerning the prohibition of chemical weapons and possible verification methods.

"Today's demonstration in the training centre was organised in order to give the British delegation a possibility to see the entire process of measures to ensure protection from chemical weapons at this training ground", said Colonel General Vladimir Pikalov, commander of chemical forces of the USSR Ministry of Defence. He noted the defensive nature of the Soviet military doctrine and the Soviet side's readiness to take all the necessary steps to reach agreement on the prohibition and elimination of chemical weapons. Early last year the USSR ceased the production of chemical weapons and announced the size of their stocks—not more than 50,000 tons. Construction has been started of a plant in Chapayevsk to destroy chemical weapons. Representatives of 45 countries last autumn visited a facility in Shikhany where they were shown samples of Soviet chemical weapons and the technology of destroying them.

Colonel General Pikalov stressed that the prohibition of chemical weapons is obstructed by the production of binary munitions that was started in the United States and opens a new channel of the race in the production of chemical weapons.

Madam Solesby, the head of the British delegation at the disarmament talks in Geneva and head of the British group of experts, noted the importance of the present visit for strengthening trust and expanding the exchange of information. This, in her opinion, will facilitate success of the talks in Geneva.

Tonight the group of British experts left for Shikhany (Saratov region) to visit a chemical facility of the Soviet Armed Forces that studies means of protection from chemical weapons.

### Shikhany Visit Continues

*LD0207174388 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1640 GMT 2 Jul 88*

[Text] Shikhany, Saratov Oblast, 2 Jul (TASS)—TASS correspondent Vladimir Usachenkov reports:

Technological equipment and devices in the mobile complex for the destruction of chemical weapons have been shown to a group of British experts, headed by Ambassador Tess Solesby, at the Soviet military site in Shikhany. The visit by the experts, who arrived in Shikhany on Thursday, is being conducted in response to the trip by a group of Soviet specialists to the Porton Down chemical warfare research center in Britain in May this year.

The technological equipment and devices shown to the British delegation is parallel to that which will be used at the chemical weapons destruction enterprise in Khapayevsk (Volga region). Their construction is among the steps being taken by the Soviet Union aimed at helping in the signing as quickly as possible of a convention on the prohibition and destruction of chemical weapons, work on which is being conducted in Geneva.

The USSR has ceased production of chemical weapons and unilaterally announced the extent of its supplies. Testimony to the USSR's willingness to make every effort to liquidate chemical weapons was the visit to Shikhany last October by representatives from 45 countries. During the present visit most attention is being focussed on technical questions connected with the preparation of a Geneva convention.

Lieutenant General Kuntsevich, deputy chief of chemical warfare troops of the USSR Ministry of Defense, replied to numerous questions put by representatives of the British delegation.

"We meet with the British delegation with the desire to discuss all the reports," he told a TASS correspondent.

The British specialists today acquainted themselves in detail with the characteristics of the chemical weapons of the USSR Armed Forces.

### CW Facility Head Speaks

*LD0207113888 Moscow TASS in English 1123 GMT 2 Jul 88*

[Text] Shikhany (Saratov region) July 2 TASS—A visit of a group of British experts to the Soviet military facility in Shikhany became another demonstration of trust and openness. They will see the laboratory and technical basis of the military facility, familiarize themselves with the technology of the elimination of chemical weapons, with special processing facilities and the equipment the Army unit has at its disposal for eliminating consequences of accidents. A practical demonstration of it will be conducted. They will fly by helicopter over the military facility and will be able to examine any spot of the test site.

Addressing the guests, Major General Robert Razuvanov, head of the Shikhany military facility, pointed out that bilateral contacts between countries participating in the talks were very important for resolving as soon as possible problems connected with the banning of chemical weapons and concluding an international convention to this effect.

"Mutual consultations, the exchange of views between specialists and the exchange of delegations sent to military-chemical facilities promote the consolidation of trust. Last May a Soviet delegation visited a British centre of military-chemical studies in Porton Down. During a reply visit of a British delegation we shall try to do as much as possible for promoting the solution of problems directly connected with a convention on the banning of chemical weapons which is being worked out today. Special attention will be devoted to scientific, technical and military aspects dealing with a chemical weapons ban, possible methods of control over its implementation and means of protection against chemical weapons", he said.

The Shikhany military facility has been assigned the task of resolving a number of problems connected with chemical weapons, technical equipment of chemical troops and chemical protection units. Apart from it it was assigned a special task: to work out methods of technical control over non-development and non-production of chemical weapons. This part of scientific and technical research has a priority today over other spheres of studies.

British experts highly appreciate the sincere striving of the Soviet side for the consolidation of trust, the desire to conclude a convention on the banning and elimination of chemical weapons as soon as possible. Ambassador Tessa Solesby, head of the British delegation at the disarmament conference in Geneva, said that their visit was the continuation of the exchange started by the visit to Porton Down by a Soviet delegation. Its purpose is to consolidate confidence in each other and mutual understanding on a wide range of questions connected with chemical weapons which are discussed at the Geneva talks.

Colonel General Vladimir Pikalov, head of chemical troops of the USSR Ministry of Defense, said: "The more good, constructive exchanges on questions of principled importance—the sooner the problem will be resolved which is facing our nations. Of course we would like to have similar exchanges of delegations with the United States, if it displays goodwill in this respect".

### UK Group Leader Comments

*LD0307221888 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 3 Jul 88*

[From the "Vremya" newscast; report by P. Orlov and Yu. Sidelnikov]

[Text] [Announcer] A group of UK chemical weapons experts spent 3 days at the military facility in Shikhany in Saratov Oblast.

[Unidentified reporter] This subunit was the first to arrive in Chernobyl, when the accident at the AES fourth set took place. It is a subunit of chemical troops, charged with dealing with consequences of large-scale accidents. This is the last position the British specialists saw, on the 3d day of their visit.

Representatives of the press, including the British press, arrived in Shikhany by air on the same day. Both the Soviet and British delegations were ready to comment on their meeting. Prior to this, confidential talks and consultations were in progress, and this alone made the current trip to the closed Soviet military facility different from the visit of foreign representatives in October last year.

The British experts, headed by Mrs Solesby, who has the rank of ambassador and is in charge of the British delegation to the Geneva conference, were informed in detail about the structure and the main directions of the activities of the Shikhany military facility. They subsequently visited the proving ground where date about the types of chemical warfare ammunition at the Soviet Army's disposal were made available to them and where this ammunition was demonstrated to them, along with various types of technology for destroying them. The British flew around the proving ground on board helicopters and visited the positions they themselves saw fit to choose.

Well, the Soviet side is ready to move matters further: A new round of talks starts on 6 July to continue the compilation of a convention on a total ban on chemical weapons.

[Begin Solesby recording in English, fading into Russian translation] Well, we have certainly been worked hard. We have naturally done very thorough work here, but it is precisely this that we wanted. The organization was excellent here. Se see such exchanges of visits between the delegations going to Porton Down and Shikhany as being of great significance, within the context that such exchanges of visits should help in the work—in the talks aimed at banning chemical weapons. [end recording] [video shows soldiers lined up near their vehicles, group of unidentified people—said to be press—two civilians, one with a British Airways shoulder bag, taking a closer look at a military vehicle; soldiers next to tracked tank-like vehicle with raised superstructure, probably capable of launching projectiles; civilians walking past vehicle line-up with red vehicle visible; Mrs Solesby flanked by two Soviet officers and group of men in civilian clothes waling past table with four unidentified objects; two trucks with three or four people standing between them wearing protective clothing; truck obscured by plaque in front of it with words in Russian: decontamination apparatus truck-mounted model DRS-14; close-up of hoses and pipe attachments; negotiating table with Soviet and UK flags and people seated on both sides. Mrs. Solesby interviewed there]

### News Conference on Visit

*LD0407121888 Moscow TASS in English 1127 GMT 4 Jul 88*

[Text] Moscow July 4 TASS—The visit by a group of British experts of the Soviet military facility in Shikhany, Saratov region, in return to the stay of the Soviet delegation at the military center for chemical research at Porton Down, Britain, last May is of major importance to working out a convention on banning and destroying chemical waeapons, said Colonel-General Vladimir Pikalov, head of the Chemical Troops of the USSR Defence Ministry. He addressed a press conference here today devoted to the results of the British delegation's visit to the Soviet military facility.

"On June 30, the British delegation toured a chemical troops training center near Moscow and on July 1-3 gained familiarization with the organisation and main directions in the operation of the Shikhany military facility," the colonel-general said.

"Soviet specialists presented over 19 reports on the history and modern state of chemical weapons, methods of protection against them, indication of poisonous substances and other issues. They were attended by the show of real specimens of laboratory equipment and chemical troops technology. During the discussion representatives of the British delegation put over 300 questions, to which exhaustive answers were given."

Yuriy Nazarkin, a representative of the USSR at the Geneva Conference on Disarmament, expressed the view that the British experts' fly by helicopter over the Shikhany facility and their inspection of ten points chosen by them could serve as a prototype of a challenge inspection. Such inspections should become a component of the mechanism to verify a convention on banning chemical weapons, which is being worked out in Geneva.

Tessa Solesby, British chief negotiator at the disarmament talks in Geneva, thanked the Soviet side for hospitality and good organisation of the visit and expressed confidence that it would serve to build up trust between the USSR and Britain.

She noted that the British delegation was afforded an opportunity to inspect a large number of laboratories, test ranges and demonstration sites and everywhere

photography, filming and sound recording was allowed. Tessa Solesby expressed, however, discontent that the British delegation was denied permission to inspect a facility near Shikhany.

Commenting on this statement, Colonel-General Vladimir Pikalov noted that the visit of the mentioned facility—a chemical plant which is under the authority of the USSR Ministry of the Chemical Industry—was not envisaged by the programme. He stressed that during the stay at Porton Down the USSR delegation abided strictly by the programme and did not ask to make any changes in it.

### Visit Summed Up

*LD0307161888 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1234 GMT 3 Jul 88*

[Text] Shikhany (Saratov Oblast), 3 Jul (TASS)—TASS correspondent Vladimir Isachenkov reports:

A gas mask, protective outfit, and special footwear—not the most comfortable clothing for walking around in 30 degrees-centigrade heat. However, some British experts, including Graham Pearson, director of the British chemical defense establishment, had to wear it in order to visit certain points of the Shikhany military installation.

The British delegation was granted the opportunity to fly over the testing area in helicopters, after which the experts marked on the map ten spots which they wished to visit. Some of them were even more fortunate—they were to inspect laboratories, the places where equipment is kept, and some other installations for which they did not need to wear thick rubber-coated overalls. Soviet and British journalists were able to attend a chemical troops military hardware display. After summing up the results of the visit, the British delegation returned to Moscow.

The British delegation's visit was in reply to a trip this May by a group of Soviet experts to the British chemical defense establishment at Porton Down. During the present visit, particular attention was devoted to technical issues connected with preparing a convention to ban and destroy chemical weapons, which is being worked on in Geneva. In particular, the Soviet side presented detailed proposals on the techniques for monitoring [kontrol] nondevelopment and nonproduction of chemical weapons. They also acquainted the British experts with the apparatus of a mobile complex for destroying chemical weapons.

### Experts View UK Group's Visit

*LD0307215988 Moscow TASS in English 1828 GMT 3 Jul 88*

[Text] Shikhany (Saratov region) July 3 TASS—By TASS special correspondent Vladimir Sachenkov:

Ambassador Tessa Solesby, the head of the British delegation at the disarmament talks in Geneva, has expressed in an interview today conviction of the importance of an exchange of expert delegations for progress in concluding at the earliest date a convention on a ban and scrapping of chemical weapons. The tour of the Soviet military facility Shikhany, which started on July 30 and ended today, by a team of British experts was arranged in return for the Soviet delegation's tour of Britain's military chemical research centre in Porton Down in May this year.

Tessa Solesby pointed out the remarkable organisation ofthe visit to Shikhany, expressed special thanks to the command of the Soviet chemical troops for the possibility granted to the British delegation to fly over the site in a helicopter and visit after that any spot chosen by them. The same was envisaged also in Porton Down, yet the Soviet experts inspected one spot, while the Britons—eleven.

"The inspection of any facilities in the Soviet site at request of the British delegation is a good example for the so-called inspections at request that should become a component part of the system of control over the implementation of the Geneva conventions", Yuriy Nazarkin, the head of the Soviet delegation at the Geneva talks, said. "The experience of the current demonstration will be studied and generalised for a more detailed elaboration of the principles of such verifications."

According to the Soviet ambassador, control over the observance of the Geneva convention will be built on the basis of combination of two types of verifications—systematic (routine) and inspections at request. The former provide for the permanent presence of inspectors in the facilities announced in concluding their convention, and the latter stand for a prompt visit to some or other point by a team of experts, if a country expresses suspicion that the work done there runs counter to the convention.

Yuriy Nazarkin also noted that in the course of the tour by the British delegation of Shikhany much attention was devoted to discussing the technical issues in connection with the drafting of the Geneva convention. Thus, in particular, problems of control over the non-development and non-production of chemical weapons and technology of their destruction were discussed in detail.

"The current visit to Shikhany is highly important also as regards a strengthening of trust between the partners at the Geneva talks", the Soviet diplomat stressed. He voiced hope that the session of the disarmament conference scheduled to open on July 6 will be able to draw closer the time of concluding a convention on banning and scrapping chemical weapons.

## CW Chief Comments on Visit

*LD0407082588 Moscow TASS in English 0752 GMT 4 Jul 88*

[Text] Moscow July 4 TASS—Last May's trip by a group of Soviet experts to the British military center for chemical research at Porton Down and the return visit by a British delegation to the Soviet military facility Shikhany, which ended last Sunday, have made considerable contributions to increased trust between the two countries, according to the chief of the Soviet chemical forces.

Colonel-General Vladimir Pikalov said in an interview with TASS correspondent Vladimir Isachenkov that such contacts meeting the spirit of new political thinking speed up drafting work on a convention to prohibit and destroy chemical weapons.

"The entire program for (the British delegation's) stay at Shikhany was directed at discussing technical matters connected with the work on the Geneva convention," he said.

"We familiarized the British delegation with our proposals on methods to verify that chemical weapons are not being developed and manufactured, and showed them two installations for destroying chemical munitions.

"Apart from the 16 points the British experts were to see under the visit's program, they were shown an extra ten," Pikalov added.

Despite the fact that the USSR last year discontinued the production of chemical weapons and announced the size of their stocks, which is under 50,000 tons, Western nations have not reacted to that gesture of good will in any way, the general said.

He warned that the U.S. manufacture of binary chemical weapons, which began last December, could seriously complicate chemical disarmament talks.

The main danger flowing from the binaries program, in his opinion, is that it clears the way to creating secret facilities to produce chemical weapons, which will be difficult to cover even by the most intrusive international verification arrangements.

"To rid the world of the threat of chemical war, it is vital to take every measure to stop chemical weapons production and concentrate efforts on concluding a convention in the near future on the prohibition and destruction of chemical weapons," General Pikalov said in conclusion.

## Ryzhkov, Delegation Attend Prague CEMA Session

### Ryzhkov Departs Moscow

*LD0407061388 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0603 GMT 4 Jul 88*

[Text] Moscow, 4 Jul (TASS)—Nikolay Ryzhkov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, left Moscow for Prague today for an official friendly visit at the invitation of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia and the Government of the CSSR.

The head of the Soviet Government will take part in the work of the 44th sitting of the session of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance in Prague from 5 to 7 July, whereupon his official friendly visit to the CSSR will continue.

### Leaders See Off Ryzhkov

LD0407082388 [Editorial Report] Moscow Television Service in Russian at 0610 GMT on 4 July carries a report on Nikolay Ryzhkov's departure for the CSSR. The Moscow Television report adds that Ryzhkov was seen off at Moscow Airport "by Comrades Zaykov and Talyzin; deputy chairmen of the USSR Council of Ministers, Comrades Batalin and Gusev; and other officials."

### Delegation Leaves

*LD0407201488 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1430 GMT 4 Jul 88*

[Text] A Soviet delegation left Moscow today for Prague to take part in the work of the 44th CEMA session. The delegation consists of Maslyukov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers; Belousov and Tolstykh, deputy chairmen of the USSR Council of Ministers; and Gostev and Kolesnikov, ministers of the USSR.

The head of the delegation, Ryzhkov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and delegation members Antonov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and permanent CEMA representative of the USSR, and Komplektov, deputy USSR minister of foreign affairs, arrived in Prague earlier today.

### Ryzhkov Arrives in Prague

*LD0407094788 Moscow TASS in English 0939 GMT 4 Jul 88*

[Text] Prague July 4 TASS—Nikolay Ryzhkov, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, arrived in Prague today.

At Ruzyne Airport Soviet and Czechoslovak national flags were raised and the guard of honour lined up. The distinguished Soviet guest was welcomed by Lubomir Strougal, member of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia and chairman of the Government of Czechoslovakia; Ladislav Adamec, member of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia and deputy chairman of the Government of Czechoslovakia; Rudolf Rohlicek, first deputy chairman of the Czechoslovak Government and permanent representative of Czechoslovakia at the CMEA, other officials and representatives of the public from the Czechoslovak capital.

### Ryzhkov Lays Wreaths

*LD0407123188 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1130 GMT 4 Jul 88*

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] At the invitation of the Communist Party Central Committee and the Government of Czechoslovakia, Nikolay Ivanovich Ryzhkov arrived in Prague today on an official friendly visit. The head of the Soviet Government will take part in the work of the 44th sitting of a CEMA session in Prague between 5 and 7 July, at the end of which his official friendly visit to Czechoslovakia will continue.

Comrade Ryzhkov today laid a wreath at the monument to Soviet troops at the Olsany Cemetery. He also visited the national monument on Vitkov Hill, where he laid a wreath and flowers at the tomb of the unknown soldier, at the grave of Klement Gottwald, and in the Soviet Army Hall. Lubomir Strougal attended the laying of the wreaths.

### Visits Meat Factory, Store

*LD0407192388 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1540 GMT 4 Jul 88*

[Text] Prague, 4 Jul (TASS)—Nikolay Ryzhkov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, is in Czechoslovakia on an official visit of friendship. Today he visited a large meat processing combine in Pisnice near Prague where he saw the combine's production premises. Miroslav Toman, CSSR minister of agriculture and food, and representatives of the administration gave explanations. N.I. Ryzhkov had conversations with the enterprise's workers, engineering, and technical personnel.

The combine is a modern, highly mechanized enterprise. It processed more than 70,000 tonnes of meat in 1987 and marketed Kcs 1.75 billion worth of output. During the visit to the enterprise and in conversations with those in charge of this industry, the two sides held talks on future closer cooperation in producing food industry

equipment. One question in particular about possibilities for the joint production of insulated containers for easily perishable produce was raised.

The head of the Soviet Government made an entry in the enterprise's VIP visitors' book. The visit to the Pisnice meat combine, notes the entry, convinces one once again of the great extent of attention which fraternal Czechoslovakia devotes to satisfying the population's requirements for food produce. One gets the impression that the good results you have been achieving for a number of years are determined by the high degree of culture and the precise organization of work. N.I. Ryzhkov wished the working people new successes in fulfilling the tasks ahead of them.

N.I. Ryzhkov also visited one of the capital's largest department stores, called Kotva. Up to 30 million people visit the store annually. The annual retail turnover of this department store amounts to approximately Kcs 1.2 billions.

A frank and involved conversation with those employed in the department store took place. It revolved around the organization of personnel work and leisure, satisfying customer demand, rendering additional services for customers, and ties with the Soviet partners. T. Svarc, the director of the department store, gave additional explanations.

Bohumir Urban, first deputy prime minister of the Czech Socialist Republic, and Josef Rab, minister of trade and tourism of the Czech Socialist Republic, took part in the conversation.

Lubomir Strougal accompanied N.I. Ryzhkov on his trip.

### Ryzhkov, Strougal Hold Talks

*LD0507083788 Moscow TASS in English 0817 GMT 5 Jul 88*

[Text] Prague July 5 TASS—Talks began here on Monday between Nikolay Ryzhkov, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, who is currently in Czechoslovakia on an official friendly visit, and Lubomir Strougal, member of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia (KSC), chairman of the Czechoslovak Government.

Main attention was devoted to the implementation of the accords reached at the talks between Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and Milos Jakes, general secretary of the KSC Central Committee, including those on deepening the economic integration of the two countries.

Nikolay Ryzhkov informed Lubomir Strougal in detail of the work and results of the 19th all-union party conference which had taken important political decisions which ensure the deepening and irreversibility of restructuring in all spheres of the life of Soviet society.

The two sides' striving to continue to develop all-round cooperation between socialist countries, to pursue a course towards asserting the new political thinking in the practice of international relations, and more actively to use political means for the resolution of international contradictions was reaffirmed during the talks.

### Meeting of Balkan Officials Reported

*PM2806122588 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Jun 88 Second Edition p 4*

[TASS report: "To Develop Cooperation"]

[Text] Sofia, 24 Jun—A meeting of deputy foreign ministers of the Balkan countries, in whose work delegations from Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Romania, Turkey, and Yugoslavia participated, has ended here with the signing of a protocol.

The meeting participants, the document points out, analyzed the proposals and initiatives advanced by the Balkan countries' foreign ministers in Belgrade. They emphasized the need for the development of bilateral relations as an important factor in the development of multilateral cooperation. In accordance with the agreement reached in Belgrade, it was proposed to hold the next meeting in 1990. The sides agreed to hold meetings of top representatives of the Balkan countries' foreign ministries twice a year to discuss questions of multilateral cooperation. The next such meeting will be held in Tirana in January 1989.

The Sofia meeting participants exchanged opinions and information on the course of the preparations for meetings of transport ministers in Yugoslavia in November-December 1988, of foreign trade ministers in Turkey in the first quarter of 1989, on questions of industrial cooperation and exchange of technologies in Romania in 1989, and on environmental protection in Bulgaria in November 1988.

An agreement was reached to hold a meeting of ministers responsible for energy issues in Albania in 1990.

## Northeast Asia

### Yazov Takes 'Soft Stand' on Japanese Defense

*OW0407120388 Tokyo KYODO in English 1141 GMT 4 Jul 88*

[Text] Moscow, July 4 KYODO—Soviet Defense Minister Dmitriy Yazov Monday took a soft stand on Japanese defense while asserting that the presence of Soviet troops in the Soviet-occupied islands off northern Japan does not pose a military threat, saying they are there for border patrol duties.

An increase in defense spending in Japan does not necessarily mean that Japan will become an aggressor nation, Yazov said in an interview with KYODO news service.

Yazov made no negative comments regarding the presence of four divisions of the Japanese Ground Self-Defense Forces in Hokkaido, saying it is up to Japan to deploy its own defense forces in the manner it chooses.

The interview was Yazov's first with a non-communist news organization since he came to office in May last year.

Yazov's remarks on the Japanese military appear softer than previous Soviet statements on the issue.

Previously, Moscow was critical of increases in Japanese defense outlays, labeling it as a sign of a revival of Japanese militarism.

Turning to the presence of Soviet troops on Kunashiri and Etorofu, Yazov insisted that the Soviet Union is free to deploy its forces wherever it wants—as Japan does in Hokkaido.

Kunashiri and Etorofu are the two main islands of the Japanese-claimed four-island group which the Soviets have occupied since the end of World War II.

Yazov said there are only several Soviet army battalions on the two islands and that their duty is to guard the border. "These troops are no threat to anyone," he said.

Turning to Soviet force in Asia, Yazov said the Soviet Union has made no fresh deployment of its ground forces in the region since 1985.

Instead, the Soviet Union is in the process of cutting its ground forces in the Soviet Far East and will continue to do so for the sake of better Sino-Soviet ties.

There has been a debate among Western military experts about whether the Soviets have beefed up or slashed their armed forces in the Asia-Pacific region.

On Soviet naval power, Yazov said the Soviet Union also plans a partial scale-down of its Navy in the region if there is an arms control agreement with the United States.

"What the Soviet Union wants in this region is not war. What we want is trade," he said.

Yazov also made a presentation on the Soviet military doctrine, underscoring its defensive character.

The Soviet Union does not seek to start a war and but only wants to maintain a military balance at a low military level, he said.

### Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Talks Viewed

*OW0507055788 Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1000 GMT 4 Jul 88*

[Tamarin commentary]

[Text] Last week in Moscow, Soviet-Japanese working-level consultations were held between Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Rogachev and Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Kuriyama. In this connection, Moscow Radio foreign affairs observer Tamarin has the following comment:

These consultations are always held in a business-like and friendly atmosphere, and the latest round, the eighth, was no exception.

At the latest round of consultations, views were exchanged on a wide range of issues, including disarmament, Soviet-U.S. relations, and particularly the Asian and Pacific regional situation. The question of Soviet-Japanese relations in general was also taken up for full discussion at the consultations. Both sides recognized that the latest round of consultations was a step toward promoting mutual understanding.

It was also agreed that Soviet-Japanese foreign ministers' talks would be held toward the end of September in New York, when Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze and his Japanese counterpart, Uno, attend a regular UN General Assembly session.

In addition, both sides expressed their intention to strive for further development of Soviet-Japanese relations. Probably it is safe to say that this was the greatest success of the latest talks.

However, before proceeding further with this story, what the present situation is in Soviet-Japanese relations should be made clear. What developments, for instance, have happened since last November, when the last round of working-level consultations was held in Tokyo?

At the Moscow working-level consultations, it was mentioned that forward-facing developments have taken place during the period in question. For instance, the

fourth meeting of the Soviet-Japanese Intergovernmental Committee for Scientific and Technological Cooperation, a joint meeting of the Soviet-Japanese and Japanese-Soviet economic committees, and fisheries talks produced fairly satisfactory results. A cultural agreement was also put into effect [words indistinct].

In sum, it can be said that certain progress has been shown in forward-facing moves toward exchanges between the two countries.

Regrettably, however, there is still no ground for feeling at ease. It arouses concern that Soviet-Japenese relations obviously lag behind the forward-facing trends in the international arena or in Soviet relations with Europe and the United States. The possibility of Soviet-Japanese cooperation is not put to full use even now. This was revealed clearly at the latest round of consultations.

The Soviet view on a set of methods for (?realizing) this possibility finds its expression in a set of proposals aimed at strengthening the legal foundation of bilateral relations and alleviating distrust in, and fear about, each other. It is, for example, to prepare and sign a document concerning the foundation or principle of mutual relations between the Soviet Union and Japan. For some years now, the Soviet Union has exchanged documents of this kind with a number of major capitalist countries.

The Soviet Union has also been proposing agreements on economic and industrial cooperation, joint action for enviromental preservation, AIDS prevention, and in many other practical areas. The Soviet Union is prepared to carefully examine corresponding constructive proposals from the Japanese side.

Regrettably, however, it seems that the Japanese side does not always have a constructive attitude or realism. This can be said of the Japanese approach, not only to Soviet-Japanese relations but also to global issues. It is a surprise because this is the case even on some issues, the resolution of which is believed to be of particular interest to Japan. These issues, for instance, include the making of the situation wholesome in all the oceans of the world and establishment of confidence-building measures in the seas, including those in the Asian and Pacific region.

As stated anew at the latest round of consultations, the Soviet side does not necessarily think that only its proposals are most appropriate. The Soviet Union calls for a dialogue as a positive exchange of views. But, although the Soviet proposal can, at least, serve as a basis for starting that sort of dialogue, there has been no due response yet from Japan. We look forward to seeing the readiness to develop a political dialogue, expressed by the Japanese side at the Moscow consultations, reflected in practical action.

We are aware that the view expressed by U.S. President Reagan in Moscow that the important thing is to talk with partners, not talk about partners, has been received with approval in Japan. In actuality, however, as it became evident at the Toronto summit, there is a tendency on the part of the Japanese Government to take issue with the Soviet Union as has been the case in the past.

Prime Minister Takeshita groundlessly denounced the Soviet Union for arms buildup in the Far East and for taking up nonexistent problems. Obviously, this sort of remark is inconsistent with the current trend of international relations.

At the Moscow working-level consultations, it was agreed in principle that the next round be held sometime next year. The Soviet Union believes that in that round, both sides will be able to confirm definite progress made in a variety of fields of Soviet-Japanese exchange. Clearly, there is the need for it, and both the people of the Soviet Union and Japan are concerned about it.

## Murakhovskiy Meets DPRK's Kim Il-song

*LD0507092588 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0900 GMT 5 Jul 88*

[Text] Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] Central Committee and president of the DPRK, stopped over in Khabarovsk on 4-5 July on his way home from the Mongolian People's Republic. He had a meeting there with Murakhovskiy, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers.

The DPRK leader was briefed on results in the work of the all-union party conference. Kim Il-song stressed that the Soviet Communists' forum had attracted the attention of the entire world public. Its success was possible thanks to the great personal efforts of Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev.

The WPK Central Committee congratulates the CPSU Central Committee on the successful completion of the conference.

During the conversation, a number of questions concerning bilateral cooperation were discussed on the basis of the agreements reached during the Soviet-Korean summit meeting. Both sides stressed their interest in expanding cooperation, and in achieving new and more progressive forms of economic interaction, including the creation of joint enterprises and the establishment of direct production links between relevant organizations in the two countries.

Kim Il-song and those accompanying him left Khabarovsk for home today.

### KCNA Cited on Provocation in DMZ

*LD0207160888 Moscow TASS in English 1516 GMT 2 Jul 88*

[Text] Pyongyang July 2 TASS—As the CENTRAL KOREAN NEWS AGENCY said today, the South Korean side fired on the DPRK's military post on the western sector of the demilitarized zone. This, the agency said, was a serious threat to the security of the DPRK servicemen who were on routine patrol duty.

It is only due to the reserve displayed by the DPRK's servicemen that the incident did not outgrow into an armed clash, the report says. All responsibility for the consequences of such provocations shall be borne by the South Korean puppets, the CENTRAL KOREAN NEWS AGENCY emphasized.

## Southeast Asia & Pacific

### Philippine Delegation Makes 'Official Visit'

*LD0407021688 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 3 Jul 88*

[Text] At the invitation of the USSR Supreme Soviet, a congressional delegation of the Repubic of the Philippines led by Mercado, majority floor leader in the Senate and chairman of the Commission for Procedural Questions, arrived in Moscow today on an official visit.

### Received by Gromyko

*LD0407221688 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 4 Jul 88*

[Text] Comrade Gromyko today received a delegation of the Philippines Congress in the Kremlin. The delegation is led by Orlando Mercado, leader of the Senate majority. The Philippine congressmen are in the USSR at the invitiation of the USSR Supreme Soviet. During a friendly and frank conversation, Comrade Gromyko spoke about the 19th all-union party conference and the views held by the Soviet leadership on the development of relations between the two countires, as well as on a number of major international problems. The guests from the Philippines paid particular attention to the party forum that has just ended.

Speaking about the 19th all-union party conference, Andrey Andreyevich Gromyko said that the fact that the strategy of restructuring is acquiring specific content in all spheres of the economy, social practice, and the political system, is the main result of the conference. Views were exchanged on the issues of developing Soviet-Philippine relations. The Soviet and Philippine sides expressed their intention to implement the potential of bilateral cooperation more vigorously. Speaking on the delegation's behalf, Mercado expressed gratitude for the reception and for the clarification of the issues in which the delegates showed interest. Concluding the conversation, Comrade Gromyko conveyed Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev's best wishes to Corazon Aquino, and wishes of prosperity and progress to the Philippine people. Comrade Demichev was present at the conversation. [video shows Gromyko talking to members of the delegation]

### Further on Talks

*LD0507001988 Moscow TASS in English 0010 GMT 5 Jul 88*

[Text] Moscow July 4 TASS—An exchange of views on questions connected with the development of Soviet-Philippine relations was held today during the reception by Andrey Gromyko in the Kremlin of a delegation of Philippine congress. Philippine congressmen with Orlando Mercado, leader of the senate majority, at the head are staying in this country at the invitation of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

During a friendly and frank conversation Andrey Gromyko told the guests at their request about the 19th all-union party conference, about the views of the Soviet leadership on the development of relations between the two countries and on a number of major international problems.

Participants in the conversation expressed high appreciation of the Soviet-American summit in Moscow which had set the beginning of concrete steps in the sphere of nuclear disarmament. Mercado pointed out that the Philippine people had learned with satisfaction that a group of Soviet experts on monitoring the elimination of missiles had arrived in the U.S. already, while a corresponding American group had arrived in the Soviet Union.

The Philippine side expressed high appreciation of the Vladivostok initiative of the USSR. Andrey Gromyko explained the essence of the Soviet approach to the problem of Asian security. The Soviet Union wants this vast region of Asia and the Pacific to be peaceful and prosperous, to be free from regional conflicts. He said that the USSR was going to actively promote the organization in that region open to all of versatile trade, economic, scientific and technical cooperation.

In connection with the problem of military bases raised by the Philippine side, Gromyko recalled the well-known Soviet stand on withdrawing troops and bases from other countries' territories.

Mercado asked about the attitude of the Soviet Union to the insurgent activities in the Philippines. Gromyko said that since the time of Lenin non-interference in the internal affairs of countries had been an important component part of Soviet foreign policy. The USSR has always been guided and continues to be guided by this principle. This consolidates its relations with other countries.

Gromyko pointed out that the USSR favoured the activization of Soviet-Philippine cooperation in all the spheres.

In conclusion Gromyko conveyed the best wishes of Mikhail Gorbachev to President Corazon Aquino of the Philippines and wished well-being and progress to the Philippine people.

## Near East & South Asia

### Reportage on U.S. Downing of Iranian Airbus

#### Downing Reported 3 Jul

*LD0307120588 Moscow TASS in English 1149 GMT 3 Jul 88*

[Text] Nicosia July 3 TASS—An Iranian airliner with 290 passengers aboard disappeared in the Persian Gulf today. The Iranian IRNA agency reports that it was downed by a missile from a U.S. warship.

The plane flew from the Iranian city of Bandar-e 'Abbas in the morning and headed for the shaykhdom of Dubayy (United Arab Emirates). According to preliminary data, all passengers aboard were killed.

#### Pentagon Spokesman Cited

*LD0307144788 Moscow TASS in English 1423 GMT 3 Jul 88*

[Text] Washington July 3 TASS—A Pentagon spokesman has stated that he knows nothing about an incident with an Iranian Air jetliner that disappeared today over the Persian Gulf.

At the same time, the Pentagon made a statement which said that at about 02.10, Washington time, a sea-based helicopter from the U.S. Vincennes cruiser (Aegis type) was shot at by an Iranian gunship in the Strait of Hormuz. In reply to that the Vincennes and the Montgomery frigate returned fire from five-inch-calibre guns. "Our reports indicate that two small Iranian patrol boats were sunk and one was damaged. The Vincennes also reported that it downed an Iranian F-14 aircraft that was approaching in a hostile manner", the statement pointed out.

#### Reagan Issues Statement

*LD0307204188 Moscow TASS in English 2033 GMT 3 Jul 88*

[Text] Washington July 3 TASS—Addressing a press conference in the Pentagon, Admiral William Crowe, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, admitted that U.S. naval ships had shot down an Iranian passenger airliner in the Persian Gulf area. The Government of the United States deeply regrets this incident, Admiral Crowe said.

The Iranian passenger air liner Airbus A-300, which had on board 298 passengers and crew members, was shot down today by fire from U.S. naval ships in the Persian Gulf. As the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY said, the plane took off from the Iranian city of Bandar-e 'Abbas and was on its way to Dubayy principality (United Arab Emirates).

Iranian Navy frogmen found in the water of the Gulf mutilated corpses of some 100 passengers and wreckage of the air liner. This is an indication that the plane was brought down with a missile.

U.S. President Ronald Reagan has issued a statement describing the incident as a terrible human tragedy. He expressed condolences to the passengers, crew members and their families, and said that the Defense Department would carry out a full investigation. At the same time the President claimed that U.S. naval ships opened fire for defense from a possible attack.

As the U.S. television company CNN said, the U.S. State Department issued instructions to U.S. embassies in most countries of the world providing for special measures to ensure security in connection with the possible retaliatory measures of Iran over the Persian Gulf incident.

#### Reagan Avoids 'Cardinal Issue'

*LD0307215488 Moscow World Service in English 2000 GMT 3 Jul 88*

[Text] President Reagan has admitted that the Iranian jumbo jet with 298 people on board was shot down by fire from an American naval vessel in the Persian Gulf. All the passengers perished. The President's statement described the incident as a terrible human tragedy and expressed condolences to the families of the dead.

Earlier the United States claimed they shot down an F-14 Air Force plane, although the Iranians made it clear from the start that the issue concerned a passenger liner. REUTER notes that the Reagan statement and a report by Admiral Crowe, chairman of the committee of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, avoids the cardinal issue: How could the many million dollar anti-aircraft system of the American vessel mistake a relatively small fighter plane for a jumbo jet?

The United States has massed a large fleet in the Gulf on the pretext of protecting shipping in the area. U.S. naval vessels have on more than one occasion been involved in skirmishes with Iranian boats. In April of this year the United States sank 2 Iranian oil platforms in the Gulf.

#### PRAVDA Reports Incident

*PM0407093788 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 4 Jul 88 Second Edition p 5*

[TASS report: "Incident in Persian Gulf"]

[Text] Nicosia, 3 Jul—An Iranian airliner with 290 passengers on board disappeared today over the Persian Gulf. The IRNA agency (Iran) has reported that "it was shot down by fire from U.S. warships."

The aircraft was on a morning flight from the Iranian city of Bandar-e 'Abbas to the shaykhdom of Dubayy (United Arab Emirates). According to preliminary reports all those on board perished.

AP has issued a statement by U.S. Defense Department Spokesman General Williams, who has admitted that skirmishes took place this morning between U.S. Navy ships in the Persian Gulf and Iranian speedboats. He also stated: "The U.S. side has been acquainted with news agency reports about Iran's claim that U.S. forces shot down the airliner. We are checking this information."

Stepp, another Pentagon spokesman, told journalists that early today a U.S. Navy helicopter was fired on by Iranian patrol speedboats. The cruiser "Vincennes" and the frigate "Montgomery" opened fire in return from 5-inch guns. According to reports available to us, the Pentagon spokesman said, 2 Iranian launches have been sunk and another has been damaged. The command of the cruiser "Vincennes" has also reported that the ship's weaponry shot down an Iranian F-14 aircraft which was moving toward it "in a hostile maneuver."

REUTER, reporting the statement by spokesmen for the U.S. Defense Department, stressed that the U.S. Navy cruiser "Vincennes" is equipped with the sophisticated "Aegis" automated air defense missile system.

IRNA has reported that Iranian rescuers discovered in the waters of the Persian Gulf the bodies of about 100 passengers from the Iran Air A-300 Airbus. Fragments of the airliner have also been found attesting, according to the agency, that the aircraft was shot down by a missile.

IRNA also cites a statement from "an informed military source" claiming that "not a single Iranian F-14 aircraft was in the air at the time of the incident."

The agency has reported that according to more accurate figures there were 298 people on board the Airbus.

### Iranian Reaction Reported

*LD0407062188 Moscow TASS in English 0610 GMT 4 Jul 88*

[Text] Washington July 4 TASS—Admiral William Crowe, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said at a press conference in the Pentagon that two surface-to-air missiles had been fired by the U.S. cruiser Vincennes during a battle it waged together with the frigate Montgomery against Iranian gunboats. According to the representative of the U.S. military department, Iranian passenger plane was taken by American sailors for an Iranian air force fighter F-14. Crowe said that the U.S. Government deeply regretted the accident.

Nicosia July 4 TASS—According to a report by the IRNA agency, the American fleet using helicopter gunships attacked Iranian patrol boats. At the same time the U.S. Navy attacked and downed an Iranian airliner in the air space of the Persian Gulf, points out the report.

Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati put the entire responsibility for the tragedy on the United States. The IRNA agency reports that he described the actions by the U.S. Navy as a barbaric murder of innocent passengers.

Iranian television points out that the downed plane of the Iranian air company Iran Air was on a regular flight from the Iranian city of Bandar-e 'Abbas to the Dubayy shaykhdom (United Arab Emirates). Among its passengers there were 52 women and 66 children, including nine infants. Iran declared a nation mourning.

### Vorontsov Meets Iranian Envoy

*LD0407103388 Moscow TASS in English 1022 GMT 4 Jul 88*

[Text] Moscow July 4 TASS—Yuliy Vorontsov, first deputy foreign minister of the USSR, today received Naser Heirani-Nobari, ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran, at his request and had a talk with him in connection with the crash of the Iranian passenger plane which was shot down by a missile fired by a U.S. warship in the Persian Gulf and also on issues pertaining to bilateral Soviet-Iranian relations.

### Supreme Soviet Condolences

*LD0407132988 Moscow TASS in English 1326 GMT 4 Jul 88*

["USSR Supreme Soviet—Message to President of Iran"—TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow July 4 TASS—The Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet sent today a message to Tehran, to President of the Islamic Republic of Iran Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i. The message says: "On behalf of the Soviet leadership and the Soviet people, we express to you, and through you to the entire Iranian people, profound and sincere condolences upon the tragic death of the passengers and crew of an Iranian airliner shot down by a missile from a U.S. naval ship in the Persian Gulf. We ask you to convey our condolences to the bereaved families".

The text of the message was read out by chief of the Information Directorate of the USSR Foreign Ministry Gennadiy Gerasimov at a briefing for Soviet and foreign journalists in the press centre of the USSR Foreign Ministry today.

### Soviet Envoy Expresses 'Regret'

*NC0407131188 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1140 GMT 4 Jul 88*

[Text] Cairo, 4 Jul (MENA)—The Soviet ambassador in Cairo, Gennadiy Zhuravlev, has warned of the gravity of the situation in the Gulf, noting that the presence of the arsenal of the United States and other Western countries is increasing tension in the region and may lead to unpredictable incidents such as the Iranian airliner incident. At a news conference he held today, the Soviet ambassador expressed his official and personal regret over the shooting down of the Iranian airliner. He noted that Moscow had proposed to President Reagan more than once and at the Moscow summit as well that all countries should withdraw their forces and that an international presence under UN auspices should take their place to safeguard international navigation.

Asked to comment on the present situation between Palestinian groups and Syria, the Soviet ambassador expressed his regret over the bloody events in the Palestinian camps in Lebanon, underlining the need to halt the fighting between Palestinians. He pointed out that his country is using all available diplomatic means to achieve this goal. The Palestinians in the camps, he said, enjoy our political and moral support as much as possible.

The Soviet ambassador noted that a meeting will be held in the near future between U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy and Vladimir Polyakov, director of the Middle East Department at the Soviet Foreign Ministry, to discuss Middle East problems. He did not fix the venue or date of the meeting nor did he rule out the possibility of a meeting between U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze to discuss these issues.

The Soviet ambassador denied newspaper reports on Soviet mediation efforts between Egypt and Libya, dismissing them as groundless. At the same time, he expressed his country's interest in normal ties between Egypt and Libya in accordance with universally acknowledged norms.

On the latest act of aggression against Angola by South Africa following the recent quadripartite negotiations in Cairo, the Soviet ambassador stressed that attempts will continue to find political solutions to liberate Namibia and ensure Angola's security.

### Gerasimov on KAL Parallel

*LD0407180888 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1730 GMT 4 Jul 88*

[Text] Moscow, 4 Jul (TASS)—"The Soviet Union warned the U.S. side that increasing its military presence and the participation of the U.S. Navy in military action in the Persian Gulf could lead to unforeseen consequences. One of those consequences is now in evidence." This is how Gennadiy Gerasimov, head of the Information Administration of the USSR Foreign Ministry commented today at a briefing on the TASS report on the tragedy of the Iranian passenger airliner shot down over the Persian Gulf by a missile from a U.S. warship.

The U.S. sailors on the ship, equipped with all the latest technology, were incapable of distinguishing between a huge Airbus and an F-14 fighter, the USSR Foreign Ministry spokesman said. This testifies to the fact that the U.S. sailors were operating at a very low professional standard.

Rejecting comparisons offered by Western journalists, Gennadiy Gerasimov nevertheless stressed that in 1983 the South Korean plane on flight 007 was flying at night, without lights, and did not respond to radio signals. The Iranian plane, however, was shot down in broad daylight in excellent visibility.

Replying to a question as to why the Soviet reaction was more restrained than the Reagan administration's reaction in 1983, he said that "the wild anti-Soviet howl raised by the U.S. Government and mass media concerning the South Korean plane was a bad example, and we are not going to follow it."

### Further on Gerasimov Briefing

*LD0407191688 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1800 GMT 4 Jul 88*

[Excerpts] On 4 July a briefing for Soviet and foreign journalists was held at the main Press Center of the USSR Foreign Ministry. It was conducted by Gennadiy Gerasimov, chief of the USSR Foreign Ministry Information Directorate. [passage omitted]

Talking about attempts by certain Pentagon leaders, Admiral Crowe in particular, to compare this incident with the episode that occurred in 1983 with the South Korean plane, Gennadiy Gerasimov noted that the South Korean Boeing plane, working together with a U.S. spy plane [as heard], invaded very deep into our airspace over a strategically important region at night and without identification lights. As for the Iranian plane, Comrade Gerasimov stressed, it only passed over its own territory and above international waters, and it was shot down in broad daylight.

### Researcher Blames U.S. Military

*LD0407122388 Moscow TASS in English 1208 GMT 4 Jul 88*

[Text] Moscow July 4 TASS—"The USA is fully responsible for the tragedy with the Iranian airliner in the Strait of Hormuz. The actions by the crew of the U.S. cruiser Vincennes who fired missiles at a passenger plane, can be assessed only as a crude violation of international air law," said Vitaliy Burdunov, senior researcher of the Institute of State and Law, USSR Academy of Sciences.

Washington's attempt to justify the attack on the Iranian airliner with a "technical error" or a "human factor", he said in an interview with TASS correspondent Sergey Staroselskiy, looks totally unsubstantiated. International air routes in this area are stipulated by relevant understandings within ICAO [International Civil Aviation Organization] and are known to all. U.S. military specialists who sat at radars could not confuse a gigantic airliner with a small warplane.

### Presidential Candidates Cited

*LD0407062588 Moscow TASS in English 0617 GMT 4 Jul 88*

[Text] New York July 4 TASS—U.S. presidential candidates from the Democratic Party have expressed deep regret over the loss of life caused by the downing of an Iranian passenger plane by U.S. warships in the Persian Gulf.

Michael Dukakis, governor of Massachusetts, said that all Americans felt sorrow over the death of people in the Persian Gulf. "The war between Iran and Iraq must end", he stressed. "We and the international community have a responsibility to stop it", Dukakis stressed.

At the same time Dukakis pointed out that "plainly our Armed Forces have a right to defend themselves when attacked". He expressed the hope that the investigation announced by the Pentagon would give prompt and full answers to all questions raised by this tragic incident.

Jesse Jackson, a prominent black American public figure who also seeks the presidential Democratic nomination, described the incident involving the Iranian passenger plane as causing sorrow. He described the policy of the current U.S. Republican administration in the Persian Gulf as erroneous. Jackson said that American hostages held by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon were in a still greater danger now.

### Soviet Muslim Reaction

*LD0407095888 Moscow TASS in English 0932 GMT 4 Jul 88*

[Text] Tashkent July 4 TASS—"The news of the death of the passengers aboard an Iranian airliner over the Persian Gulf caused sincere sorrow among the Soviet Moslems", Mufti Shamsuddinkhan ibn Ziyauddinkhan ibn Ishan Babakhan [name as received], chairman of the Muslim Board of Central Asia and Kazakhstan, told TASS today.

"The criminal action by the U.S. fleet terminated the lives of 290 people. They fell pray to the imperial ambitions of the United States which is eager to dictate its will to independent Persian Gulf states, to subordinate them economically. Announcing this area a sphere of their vital interests, Americans justify any crimes while moving to attain their goals".

"We constantly pray for the bloodshed to be ceased all over the earth. Therefore, any aggressive action, especially as cynical and ruthless as the one which has just been staged, arouses bitter indignation among Soviet Moslems", the religious worker said.

### Iran's UN Envoy Interviewed

*LD0507003088 Moscow TASS in English 0015 GMT 5 Jul 88*

[Text] New York July 4 TASS—Mohammad Ja'far Mahalati, Iran's representative at the U.N., has described as an inhuman act of terrorism the actions of the U.S. Navy responsible for the bringing down of an Iranian jet airliner with some 290 passengers on board. Speaking on the ABC television program "Good Morning, America", he pointed out that the airliner had been going from the city of Bandar-e 'Abbas to the Dubayy principality by an ordinary air corridor approved by ICAO [International Civil Aviation Organization].

According to Mohammad Ja'far Mahalati, this route was used by the Iran Air company five times a week. Besides, the Vincennes cruiser that fired a missile at the airliner was fitted out with the most up-to-date equipment, and it is hardly possible that when using this equipment one can mistake a jet airliner for a fighter plane.

Iran's representative turned down the attempts of the U.S. Administration to justify the criminal action of the U.S. Navy by the fact that the Iranian airliner had happened to be in the area of hostilities. One should not forget that the extremely tense situation in the Persian Gulf formed as a result of the concentration of U.S. warships there. The U.S. naval presence in the region brought about first the death of 27 American sailors and now the murder of some 290 peaceful civilians, mostly Iranians. The Iranian representative urged the U.N. or another independent international organization to conduct investigations into the crime committed in the Persian Gulf and said that those guilty of it must be punished.

### UN Chief on 'Tragic Error'

*LD0507041488 Moscow TASS in English 0335 GMT 5 Jul 88*

[Text] New York July 5 TASS—Javier Perez de Cuellar, U.N. secretary-general, made a statement Monday in connection with the developments that led to the death of the passengers and crew of the Iran Air liner.

"The secretary-general has learned with dismay that during the course of a military engagement in the region of the Strait of Hormuz, an Iranian civil aircraft was destroyed in fight by missile from an American cruiser," the statement says.

It says that the secretary-general has been in touch with both countries concerned. The secretary-general cannot but condemn what appears to have been a tragic error and calls for the greatest restraint in this difficult moment for the peace and security of the region.

The question of responsibility should not be ignored if a repetition of such a tragedy is to be avoided.

The secretary-general expresses his heartfelt condolences to the families of all the victims.

The secretary-general is more determined than ever to continue his efforts for the implementation of Resolution 598 in all its aspects, including Paragraph 5.

### U.S. Naval Operations Condemned

*LD0507082188 Moscow TASS in English 0750 GMT 5 Jul 88*

[Text] Washington July 5 TASS—The shocking news of an Iranian airliner having been shot out of the sky by a missile fired by the USS Vincennes on patrol duty in the Persian Gulf is continuing to be debated in Washington.

A series of urgent closed-door meetings was called at the Pentagon and the State Department last Monday, with President Reagan, who is currently resting at his Californian ranch, taking part by phoning in.

According to THE WASHINGTON POST, one of his administration's priorities now is to devise measures to cushion worldwide anger and anxiety over the actions of a U.S. cruiser that have caused the death of almost 300 plane passengers.

The tone was set from the very beginning by the Pentagon which played the missile blow to the airliner down as an "unpremeditated error" by a naval ship during a "combat engagement" in Gulf waters over which the plane was winging its way.

Ronald Reagan followed up with two statements. In his July 4 remarks he described the tragedy as "an understandable accident to shoot and think that they (the warship's master) were under attack from that plane".

The President added firmly that the U.S. naval task force in the Gulf would stay on there to protect "the right of navigation of international waters".

Administration spokesmen have thus been attempting to present the "incident" in the sky over the Persian Gulf as a happenstance whose repetition the United States would certainly try to avoid.

But has it been a happenstance?

A reply can be found in an article by well-known U.S. political scientist William Arkin, one of the leaders of the Washington-based Institute for Policy Studies, which has been printed in THE WASHINGTON POST under the characteristic headline "Our Risky Naval Strategy Could Get Us All Killed".

The appearance of the article was not connected with the "incident" in the Persian Gulf. It was written before it.

The strategy, according to the author, is based on "forward deployments" of huge armadas of American surface ships and submarines way outside U.S. territorial waters and "fleet commanders have considerable leeway in operating their forces".

To wit: This has effectively been just the case in the Persian Gulf, only the decision to launch a missile against an unidentified aircraft there has been made not even by a fleet commander, but merely by the master of a cruiser.

U.S. warships, Arkin noted, plied the waters not only of the Persian Gulf, but of all the world's oceans, engaging in large-scale maneuvers and other "aggressive operations" in the immediate proximity of Soviet shores and in the territorial waters of American allies in NATO and Japan.

Arkin recalled also such provocative, dangerous U.S. naval operations as the forays of the cruiser Yorktown and the destroyer Caron into Soviet territorial waters of the Crimea in 1986 and 1988.

Don't such actions come really close to provoking a crisis?

During a crisis, Arkin wrote, "the movement of naval forces, especially attack submarines, could contribute to escalation of a conflict". Such naval strategy, in his opinion, is not conducive to closer U.S. relations with other countries, including a number of allied nations where this posturing causes protests and profound concern.

It didn't enhance U.S. security either, Arkin added, because it "has markedly increased not only the opportunity for provocative encounters on the high seas but also the risk that such encounters will escalate into nuclear warfare".

### AUCCTU on 'Barbaric Action'

*PM0507102188 Moscow TRUD in Russian 5 Jul 88 p 4*

["AUCCTU Statement" under general heading "Tragedy in the Persian Gulf"]

[Text] International news agencies have reported terrible news: An Iranian civil airliner with 298 passengers on board was shot down from a U.S. Navy cruiser over international waters in the Persian Gulf, thousands of miles away from U.S. shores.

There can be no justification for this barbaric action by the U.S. military. The blood of innocent victims lies on the conscience of not only the direct culprits of this tragedy but also those who sent them there to engage in saber rattling in this region for the sake of the notorious "U.S. national interests."

The AUCCTU expresses profound condolences to the families of the dead. On behalf of their 140 million members, the Soviet trade unions resolutely demand the cessation of the provocative maneuvers by the U.S. Armed Forces in the Persian Gulf, which are sowing death and threaten a grave exacerbation of the military-political situation in this region and all over the world.

### UK Reaction Criticized

*PM0507110588 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 5 Jul 88 p 4*

[Own correspondent Yu. Sagaydak dispatch: "Missiles Against Airliner"]

[Excerpts] The tragedy in the sky above the Persian Gulf, where 2 missiles fired by the U.S. cruiser "Vincennes" shot down an Iranian civil aircraft with 298 passengers on board, has most urgently raised the question of the true objectives of the U.S. military presence in this part of the globe. [passage omitted]

It must be said that some British mass media (and primarily BBC television) are responding to the bloody incident in a highly peculiar fashion. They are citing statements by various experts who suggest at length that the Iranian passenger aircraft had almost deliberately entered the combat zone and thus provoked the Americans into launching the missiles. They recall the attack by an Iraqi combat aircraft on the U.S. ship "Stark" in May last year, which resulted in the death of some 30 seamen. This leads to the conclusion that the Americans, if they feel slightly threatened, are entitled to destroy any targets or objects in the Persian Gulf.

This full stream of commentaries is descending upon the British public. It obviously has a single objective: to justify the actions by their main allies, the Americans. The prime minister's residence was not to be left out. M. Thatcher, having expressed "profound regret" over the death of the Iranian airliner's passengers, simultaneously gave full support to the Americans' actions, describing them as "self-defense."

Phil Kelly from the newspaper TRIBUNE called this statement by the prime minister "a disgrace for Great Britain."

## Soviet Commentary on Iranian Airbus Downing

### U.S. Should Withdraw

*LD0407075688 Moscow World Service in English 0710 GMT 4 Jul 88*

[Text] As you may have heard in the news, an Iranian Airbus has been shot down by a missile fired from an American naval vessel in the Persian Gulf. All the 298 passengers on board perished. Stanislav Vasilyev comments:

[Vasilyev] Of course the crash of a passenger plane could be called a terrible human tragedy, as President Reagan called it in a statement over what happened; but did it occur accidentally? The tragedy took place thousands of miles away from the U.S. shores and just several minutes of flight from the shores of Iran. The Reagan administration concentrated in the region a huge armada on a pretext of protecting shipping there. American warships and planes have repeatedly attacked Iranian vessels. Not long ago, in April, American forces destroyed two Iranian oil platforms.

The commanders of American naval vessels and air crews have apparently been losing control of their actions more and more. Anyway, when Americans saw an enemy on their radar they were quick to defend themselves—that is, to deliver a strike on any target, a stray fighter plane or an Airbus with 300 passengers on board.

According to CNN television, the Department of State has instructed the American embassies in most countries to take special precautions to guarantee safety in view of Iran's possible retaliation. As you can see, countermeasures are being planned again, but something altogether different is needed.

One should understand that peace and the freedom of navigation in the Gulf cannot be guaranteed by military means, confrontation or counter strikes. Will the Reagan administration realize after the tragedy that the ships of the United States and of other noncoastal countries should be withdrawn from the Gulf and the freedom of navigation there could be ensured by the United Nations?

### U.S. Gulf Presence Blamed

*LD0407111388 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1010 GMT 4 Jul 88*

[Text] Moscow, July 4 (TASS)—Political observer Askold Biryukov writes: The thing that should have been expected from the moment of the concentration of unprecedented U.S. military might in the Persian Gulf has happened. "The loaded weapons hanging on the wall" was bound to fire in some act of the drama being played out there, and fire it has. The highly up-to-date automated missile system "Aegis," with which the U.S. cruise "Vincennes" is equipped, operated against a civilian airliner from the Iranian firm "Iran Air." The

Airbus, with almost 300 people on board, came down in the waters of the Gulf, taking with it into the depths of the sea the lives of perfectly innocent people.

The entire civilized world has been shaken. The worldwide public is indignant, having forewarned that the risky adventure of sending a U.S. naval armada into the Persian Gulf inevitably would lead to tragic consequences. In Washington, the feverish search for justification is on, and they are talking about some sort of "mistake" in recognizing the vast airliner which, it is alleged, was confused with a small fighter. Attempts are being made to justify themselves by the fact that the firing was undertaken, they claim, with the aim of "defense against possible attack." The clumsiness of these justifications from Washington is striking as its evident reluctance finally to draw the appropriate conclusions from its escapade in the Persian Gulf and adopt a more reasonable and constructive position of putting an end to the regional conflict in that area.

The war correspondent of the London paper THE GUARDIAN thinks, for instance, that Washington's version, alleging that the attack against the Iranian civil airliner was the consequence of an "unforeseen situation," is not sufficiently justified. The paper thinks that such a possibility should have been foreseen. The British Government, it notes, "even had put forward reservations earlier about the extremely risky nature of the activities of the U.S. Navy in the Persian Gulf." "Such a tragedy was brewing" echoes the FINANCIAL TIMES.

THE WASHINGTON POST notes that during the course of last year, the U.S. Armed Forces "were acquiring more and more rights" to make decisions with regard to "countering the aggressive actions of the Iranian forces" in the Persian Gulf. The paper points out that "more and more strict orders" were coming from representatives of the Reagan administration.

Is it not strange that it was precisely this adventure-seeking policy of Washington that led to this human tragedy happening in the air space over international waters in air corridors earmarked for the passage of civilian aircraft? The Paris LIBERATION says that "it is possible to explain away the destruction of the Iranian Airbus as an accident, but this is an accident for which one must bear responsibility."

The tragedy in the Persian Gulf testifies with complete clarity to the need to withdraw the U.S. war armada from this region as soon as possible, and to bring in UN naval forces, which the world community has already been advocating for a long time.

### 'Deliberate Mass Murder'

*LD0407114788 Moscow World Service in English 1110 GMT 4 Jul 88*

[Text] And now a look at a primary topic in the world media, the shooting down by the U.S. Navy of an Iranian airliner over the Persian Gulf. Here is what commentator Aleksandr Pogodin writes:

Official U.S. accounts of this tragic event range from an outright lie to cynical self-justification. On Sunday, at 0655 GMT the airliner was brought down by a missile fired from the American cruiser "Vincennes." A story about that was soon run by the Iranian news agency IRNA. The story was strongly refuted by the U.S. Naval Command. It was stated that a military F-14 plane was shot down that was about to attack the cruiser. It was only over 11 hours after the tragedy that President Ronald Reagan admitted that an airliner was shot down. Soon afterwards there were numerous "explanations by highranking American military officials and White House spokesmen.

The explanations can be reduced to two stands. First, an attempt is made to prove that this was an accident, since the airliner was mistakenly identified as an F-14 plane. And secondly, efforts are made to confirm the President's claim that the incident was a justified defensive action.

I would like to note, writes Aleksandr Pogodin, that all these explanations are refuted by the media in the United States itself. For example, opinions of specialists are cited to the effect that the electronic equipment on U.S. naval ships is so perfect that it would have been absolutely impossible to mistake a jumbo jet for a small 2-seater F-14. It is also quite obvious that attempts are made in vain to explain the shooting down as necessary defense.

What was the American cruiser defending itself from? Was it threatened by the 66 children and 52 women who were among the nearly 300 passengers of the airliner?

I am deeply convinced, writers Aleksandr Pogodin, it was a deliberate mass murder in cold blood. It is futile for the U.S authorities to play down the tragedy by lavish hypocritical expressions of compassion for the families of the dead and by claiming that this was just a deeply deplorable incident.

It is as futile to compare the crime with the termination of the flight by a Korean airliner brought down by a Soviet Air Force fighter in 1983. In that case, it was a plane that had been sent into Soviet airspace and for a long time continued flying over Soviet territory despite warnings.

On Sunday a U.S. cruiser thousands of miles away from the shores of the United States, a brazen intruder in an alien region, shot down a airliner that according to the IRNA agency was flying along a corridor given to civil air traffic.

It is thus too apparent there is a difference between a true act of self-defense, protection of nations' borders, and deliberate cruel murder.

To conclude, here is what U.S. President said about the purpose of the U.S. presence in the Persian Gulf. Allegedly it was aimed at securing peace. But I believe, writes Aleksandr Pogodin, that the crime on Sunday clearly indicates the true aims of the United States.

### U.S. Should Draw 'Conclusions'

*LD0407135088 Moscow TASS in English 1347 GMT 4 Jun 88*

["Airline Downing—TASS Statement"—TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow July 4 TASS—A tragic event took place in the sky over the Persian Gulf on July 3. An Iran Air airliner on a regular flight along a commercial air route over international waters was shot down by a missile from the U.S. naval ship Vincennes.

All the 298 passengers and crew on board were killed. U.S. official spokesmen conceded that the missile had been fired by the U.S. ship.

The tragedy, responsibility for which is wholly with the American command, has been far from accidental. It has been in effect a direct corollary of United States actions over the past year to increase its military presence in the Persian Gulf.

The unprecedented buildup of American warships and planes in the area has made and keeps making for an explosive situation there, which is fraught with the most unpredictable consequences.

The crash of the Iranian airliner and the death of innocent people, including women and children, has dramatically demonstrated what power politics and the policy of heightening tension can lead to.

Consistently being for political ways of settling conflicts, including the one in the area, the Soviet Union has repeatedly warned at different forums that the path of military actions cannot lead to a normalized situation. If the warnings had been heeded, the July 3 tragedy would not have occurred.

The tragedy has borne out once again that the U.S. naval fleet must leave the Persian Gulf without delay. There is every possibility for peace and security in the Gulf to be ensured on a fundamentally different basis—by a U.N. naval force.

It is to avoid such tragedies that we have been consistently pressing for the removal of foreign military presence and foreign military bases from others' territories.

Expressing deep condolences over the loss of life and condemning the actions of the American military that have led to it, the Soviet side hopes that the U.S. leadership will draw from what has happened urgent conclusions in relations to American policy in the Persian Gulf.

### U.S. Arguments 'Sound Naive'

*PM0507100688 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 5 Jul 88 Second Edition p 5*

[TASS and own correspondent V. Gan reports under the general heading "Missiles Against Passengers"]

[Text] [TASS report] Nicosia, 4 Jul—The United States committed a crime by shooting down the Iranian airliner over the Persian Gulf, Iranian Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi stated.

National mourning was declared in Iran today.

Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati stated in Tehran that the American Armed Forces perpetrated a monstrous crime in the Persian Gulf by shooting down a civil aircraft, killing 298 people. Washington "admitted in effect the fact of the crime, stating that its Armed Forces shot down an Iranian military aircraft with missiles. But there was no Iranian military place in the region at the time. The American missiles shot down an Airbus on Flight 655 to Dubayy."

Tehran radio reported that the Iranian A-300 airliner, on a flight over the Persian Gulf, was flying "correctly within the international corridor." The IRNA agency reports that among the passengers were 66 children, including 57 aged between 2 and 13 and 9 younger than 2. There were 36 foreigners among the passengers on the downed Iranian airliner. According to Iranian information, on board the downed plane were 12 citizens of the United Arab Emirates, 8 Indians, 6 Yugoslavs, 6 Pakistanis, 2 Kuwaitis, an Italian, and an Afghan.

[V. Gan report] Washington, 4 Jul—Cold-blooded murder was perpetrated in the sky over the Persian Gulf. The American cruiser "Vincennes" destroyed an Iranian passenger plane with a missile salvo. All 298 people on board died....

From early morning, the propaganda big guns were brought into operation in official Washington. At the same time, in the course of feverish interdepartmental consultations, the "most decent" versions of the crime were agreed on, versions which could be presented to the public. At a press conference convened in the afternoon Admiral W. Crowe, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, placed the main emphasis on "extenuating circumstances."

Even at the beginning of the conference, the lack of any repentance for the crime committed was obvious. W. Crowe accused Iran virtually of a deliberate provocation.

The facts that have been accumulated in the past day naturally cry out against such a self-inflicted outrage. The picture is already more or less clear. When the missile-carrying "Vincennes" and the accompanying frigate "Montgomery" were passing through the Strait of Hormuz, at approximately the same time, the A-300 passenger Airbus took of on Flight 655 from the Iranian

city of Bandar-e 'Abbas to Dubayy (United Arab Emirates) and was to cross the Gulf for approximately 150 miles. The American radars "traced" the approaching aircraft and "took" it for a combat plane. On the order of the ship's commander, missiles were launched, and destroyed the peaceful plane.

The U.S. Navy Command, on the basis of reports from the site, claims that the civil aircraft was taken for an F-14 fighter-bomber, that visibility was poor and visual contact impossible, that at the time there was no American AWAC's in the air which could have established the actual type of aircraft, and that the A-300 did not respond to warnings.

Even to a nonspecialist, these arguments sound naive at best. The "Vincennes" is equipped with the most up-to-date "Aegis" electronic system, which is able to establish the type of approaching aircraft with almost total accuracy. ABC television, in fact, noted this factor, stating: "Military chiefs in Washington do not want to dispute publicly the arguments of the commanders of the U.S. Armed Forces in the Gulf."

The White House tried to smooth out the obvious "discrepancies" in the explanations, issuing a statement by President Reagan, who expressed deep regret over a "terrible human tragedy." The President, however, deemed it possible to call the shooting down of an unarmed passenger plane an "appropriate defensive act." That is the tone, the newspapers write, in which leading members of the U.S. Congress and the American allies were briefed.

## U.S. Gulf Presence Criticized

*PM0507095588 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 5 Jul 88 Second Edition p 5*

[Tomas Kolesnichenko "Observer's Opinion" under the general heading: "Missiles Against Passengers"]

[Text] So a crime has been committed, and its scale is international in character. And not only because the 298 Airbus passengers included Yugoslavs, Indians, Pakistanis, an Italian, and other foreigners. The missiles launched by the U.S. cruiser "Vincennes" also blew apart the provisions of international law, common sense, and the principles of nonuse of force and noninterference in other peoples' affairs.

The very explanation of this "unfortunate incident" (as some people in the West are calling the U.S. Navy's crime) and Washington's attempts to justify its actions show what a danger is posed to mankind by American Armed Forces in areas remote from the United States. Judge for yourselves: A passenger aircraft has been shot down. It was shot down not over the United States, but over foreign territory. It was shot down, it may be said, while still climbing, following the air corridor prescribed for it. But President Reagan has calmly stated: "We deeply regret the deaths of people. The Iranian civil airliner's course was such that it was headed straight for the 'Vincennes'...." What do we have here? If you follow this "logic," international airline routes will have to depend on whether there are U.S. ships or military bases in the vicinity. Otherwise, by "heading straight" for them, airliners will be targets for U.S. missiles. Who gave Washington that right, and why are the United States' closest allies trying to justify its claims to complete license? These are the questions that arise in connection with the tragedy above the Persian Gulf.

And another question. It was bound to crop up, and it was immediately put to Admiral Crowe by journalists at the press conference: "What is the difference between the present incident and the incident involving the Korean aircraft?" The admiral had nothing instructive to say and, in the end, he resorted to sheer distortion of the facts, to put it mildly. "The South Korean aircraft," he said, "did not receive any caution or warning. The aircraft was accused of being there for the purpose of gathering intelligence data." Of course, it was not so at all. The admiral had turned everything upside down. And it is all water off a duck's back as far as he is concerned: both the fact that books on the subject have demonstrated that the 1983 tragedy was a premeditated act by the CIA; and the fact that the Korean airliner was flying above foreign territory, and the fact that it was repeatedly warned....

But that is not the point either. The world has drawn its own conclusion. What about Americans? How absurd it would be to agree with the U.S. President, who claims without a trace of embarrassment: "The United States is only interested in peace in the Persian Gulf, and this tragedy stresses the need to try to attain this goal as soon as possible (?!)."

No, peace will not be achieved by such methods, certainly not in the Persian Gulf. To use the President's language, "this tragedy" was, one might say, preprogrammed. The militarization of the Persian Gulf and the concentration of 30 U.S. Navy ships and a similar number of its allies' ships there means that the hammer was inexorably cocked. So it went off—a loaded gun will always fire. It must be unloaded before it is too late, all combat forces must be withdrawn from the Gulf, and effective political measures must be taken at last to halt the Iran-Iraq war and stop the Pentagon's interference in the region's affairs.

Many other far-reaching questions arise. For example, can computers and other "reliable" U.S. technology be trusted? If the most up-to-date electronic equipment failed to distinguish a cumbersome, slow-moving Airbus from a supersonic fighter, what guarantee is there that in the future the much-vaunted SDI supercomputers will not make the same mistake, with unpredictable consequences? It is clearly also time that the United States matched the borders of its Armed Forces to its own territory. Meanwhile, in any part of the world where

there are U.S. military bases, it seems that further human casualties, explosive conflicts, and the deterioriation of the international situation as a whole can be expected.

Last, but very important: People no longer have any faith in the cowboy "self-defense" principle under whose slogans the United States has committed a crime against completely innocent people, against women and children. Not only has a passenger aircraft, but also the screen which hides the U.S. military doctrine has been destroyed.

### Downing Not 'Technical Error'

*PM0507103388 Moscow TRUD in Russian 5 Jul 88 p 4*

["Specialist's Opinion" by Candidate of Juridical Sciences V. Bordunov, senior scientific associate of the USSR Academy of Sciences State and Law Institute, under general heading "Tragedy in the Persian Gulf"]

[Text] The United States attributes the destruction of the Iranian airliner to a technical error. This is hard to believe. The point is that the Iranian aircraft was on a flight path following international air lanes discussed within the framework of the International Civil Aviation Organization and enshrined in appropriate regional accords. Moreover, the plane was flying at an altitude used by civil aircraft and not, as a rule, by military aircraft. This fact is of fundamental importance, and it must have been known to the U.S. command which made the decision to shoot down the civil aircraft. It was perfectly possible to see on the radar that the Iranian airliner was behaving nothing like a military aircraft in terms of either speed or altitude.

Furthermore, if they did have any problems in determining whether the aircraft was civil or military, before embarking on this risky step the Americans should have made sure to contact the aircraft by radio on the international frequency especially reserved for emergencies.

If this was not done, the assumption that suggests itself is that the Americans knew what they were dealing with.

An amendment to Article 3 of the Chicago Convention was adopted in 1984. It enshrined the accord "that every state must refrain from using weapons against civil aircraft in flight...." The United States also voted for this amendment when it was adopted. Consequently, it has committed a gross violation of this important principle of international air law, and this gives grounds for qualifying the U.S. behavior as unlawful, with all the ensuing consequences.

### Gulf Situation Now 'More Acute'

*OW0507054288 Moscow Television Service in Russian 2200 GMT 4 jul 88*

[From the Novosti newscast; Aleksandr Serikov commentary]

[Text] Hello comrades. The story of the tragic downing of the Iranian plane is becoming the leading news story in the world press. I feel that serious statements and conclusions will be made later. Meanwhile, let us limit ourselves to preliminary observations. The plane was shot down by 2 surface-to-air missiles fired from the U.S. cruiser "Vincennes." [Video shows missiles fired from an unidentified vessel] This was confirmed by Admiral Crowe, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He stated that the incident took place during a battle with Iranian vessels, and that supposedly the U.S. sailors mistakenly identified the Iranian passenger plane for an Iranian fighter. The U.S. Government, said the admiral, deeply regrets this incident. [Video shows Admiral Crowe at press conference]

This notwithstanding, there were 290 people on board the plane. Rescuers discovered the bodies of 150 in the wreckage. It is thought unlikely that there are survivors among those missing. An Iranian representative placed the full responsibility for what has happened on the United States. He called the action of the U.S. Navy the barbarian murder of innocent passengers.

The tense situation in the Persian Gulf has been continuing for some time. It constantly threatens to spill over into something similar to what happened on Sunday. It seemed that the protection of the oil tankers by the U.S. Navy was necessary. That is what it seemed like. But many governments have been saying that the situation could result in something similar to what has taken place. In particular, the belief was voiced that only by withdrawing all naval forces from the region will tension be reduced. And now this.

In the opinion of the British FINANCIAL TIMES, this tragedy will make the situation in the region more acute and the prospects of a peaceful solution more remote. The danger, says the newspaper of British business circles, lies in the fact that the incident may lead Tehran to retaliate, which would change the previous talk about a possible confrontation with reality. In any case, the U.S. actions have been severely criticized by many government and public figures, including those in the United States itself. At the same time, the governments of several countries, in particular France, Italy, Norway, and others, have called on all measures to be implemented for preventing an armed conflict in the Persian Gulf.

### Iranian 'Warships' Attack Norwegian Tanker

*LD0307211288 Moscow TASS in English 1926 GMT 3 Jul 88*

[Text] Oslo July 3 TASS—Berge Strand tanker of Norway was brought under missile fire today in the morning in the southern part of the Persian Gulf, off the coast of

the Al-Shariqah principality, United Arab Emirates. The Norwegian Telegraph Bureau reported with reference to the Dubayy sources (United Arab Emirates) that the attack was staged by Iranian warships. Fire that flared up in the tanker was quickly put out. None of the crew was injured.

### Procurator Announces Amnesty for Soviet POW's

*LD0407132788 Moscow TASS in English 1311 GMT 4 Jul 88*

[Text] Moscow July 4 TASS—The question of the destiny of Soviet servicemen held by forces of the Afghan armed opposition is posed with new acuteness in connection with the beginning of the withdrawal of the Limited Contingent of Soviet Troops from the territory of the Republic of Afghanistan, procurator-general of the USSR Aleksandr Sukharev said at a briefing here today. "Some of them, apparently, died, but, as follows from reliable sources, the biggest part of those missing is in the territory of Pakistan, the United States and some other countries. No one can remain indifferent to their fate," he said.

The Soviet Government, our entire people are seriously concerned over the destiny of their citizens and sons who were discharging their internationalist duty. The necessary measures are taken to ensure that they return home as soon as possible, Aleksandr Sukharev said.

"Being aware of extreme conditions in which these servicemen landed, the difficulties and suffering which became their lot while they were held prisoner and were staying in foreign countries, Soviet people never lost faith in their compatriots, in humanism and justice," the USSR procurator-general said. "They hope that the years spent away from the motherland have not altered their views on life, on our social values, have not inhibited their patriotic feelings."

In order to denigrate our soldiers who were taken prisoner, to disorient Soviet and world public, the forces of confrontation, certain foreign mass media try to create the impression that these servicemen refuse to return home, have become voluntary emigrants. Certain persons persistently spread allegations that they are doomed to reprisals if they return home, Aleksandr Sukharev said.

"On behalf of the Soviet state I declare that the servicemen who were in the Limited Contingent of Soviet Troops in Afghanistan and who return home after being held prisoner and staying in foreign countries will enjoy in full measure all political, social and all other rights guranteed by the Constitution of the USSR to Soviet citizens," Aleksandr Sukharev said.

"As to those who could not resist hostile propaganda, who failed to withstand suffering and provocations of captivity and committed offenses damaging our state, all of them will be amnestied out of supreme considerations of socialist humanism," he said.

We wish sincerely that this statement be viewed by Soviet servicemen held prisoner and staying in foreign countries as the call of the motherland, as the manifestation of genuine humanism which is an inalienable part of our democratism and perestroyka, Aleksandr Sukharev said.

"We also express the hope that the official authorities, specifically the Governments of Pakistan and the United States, the foreign public, all people of good will, guided by the principles of humanitarian law, will be helping bring about an early return to families, relatives and kin of the Soviet servicemen whom a misfortune had be fallen," the procurator-general of the USSR said.

## Latin America & Caribbean

### U.S. 'Armed Invasion' of Panama Previewed

*LD0307053088 Moscow TASS in English 0518 GMT 3 Jul 88*

[Text] Caracas July 3 TASS—By TASS correspondent Boris Shcherbakov:

The USA is preparing an armed invasion of Panama, which might take place in the next few days, Panama's Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Maria Cabrera told a news conference here on Saturday.

Escalation of American aggression, he stressed, has been constantly increasing since March this year. However, in the past few weeks it has been carried out on an unheard-of scale. A series of alarming facts is evidence that the Pentagon is preparing to repeat the Grenada gamble in Panama. The U.S. ambassador has left the country. Families of American employees are being sent home. American citizens, who lived in the city, were moved to military bases in the zone of the Panama Canal. American military hospitals were put on combat alert. Fresh troops and hardware is being moved to Panama. U.S. aircraft and helicopters make regular overflights of Panamanian military facilities. Cities and large settlements in Panama are flooded with the agents of the American military intelligence, which act under the guise of "tourists". By the unilateral decision of the American side, the headquarters of the administration of the Panama Canal was transferred to the American town of Sabana. A visit by U.S. State Secretary George Shultz to Central American countries is also linked with the invasion.

The deputy of the Panamanian foreign minister reaffirmed people's resolve to give a fresh rebuff to the aggressor. He said that all Latin American and Caribbean countries, and the international community were on the side of the Panamanians.

### Shultz' Central American Tour Viewed

*LD0107124088 Moscow TASS in English 1150 GMT 1 Jul 88*

["Shultz's Mission To Isolate Nicaragua"—TASS headline]

[Text] Havana July 1 TASS—The U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, now on a Central American tour, has the aim to ensure the local governments' support for Washington's aggressive course vis-a-vis Nicaragua, the Latin American news agency PRENSA LATINA reports. He also intends to enlist the assistance in the question of continued American military aid to counter-revolutionary gangs.

Judging by reports of news agencies reaching here, upon arrival in Guatemala, the first lap in his Central American tour, George Shultz had a meeting with contra leaders there. The question discussed was how to "overthrow the Sandinist government in Managua". Local political observers regard that demarche by the U.S. secretary of state as gross encroachment on the acting provisional ceasefire agreement, signed by the Government of Nicaragua and the contra leaders in Sapoa in March this year, and the Guatemalan accords on a peace settlement in the region.

In El Salvador the Washington emissary, while seeking to heighten anti-Nicaraguan hysteria, called upon the local military to do away as soon as possible with the insurgents in that country, who are known to conduct successful offensive operations against troops of the puppet regime, and stand for establishment of democracy, freedom and independence in that Republic. George Shultz signed an agreement with the authorities of El Salvador on granting 125 million dollars for suppressing the patriotic movement.

In Honduras, at a meeting with President Azcona, George Shultz advocated that the contras should step up subversive activities against Sandinist revolution. The contras are known to have on Honduran territory military bases watched over by the Pentagon. The Washington emissary also concluded an agreement with the regime on allocation of 57 million dollars.

Pointing to the U.S. increased aggressiveness vis-a-vis Nicaragua, President of the Republic Daniel Ortega has said in Managua that the Reagan Administration is seeking to isolate it in Central America and to continue the undeclared war through the hands of Somozist mercenaries. George Shultz's tour is contrary to the interests of all peoples of the region, who, on their own are looking for ways of a peace settlement of the existing conflict, he said.

### Nicaraguan Criticism of Shultz Cited

*LD0307062088 Moscow TASS in English 0605 GMT 3 Jul 88*

[Text] Managua July 3 TASS—The Sandinist government condemned the statement by U.S. State Secretary George Shultz, who tried to lecture the Nicaraguan people on "democracy" and reaffirmed Washington's intention to continue giving aid to the contras. These statements were described in a communique published here as a prelude to fresh interventionist actions against the people of Central America.

The policy of interference, pursued by the United States, is the main cause behind the problems of the region, the document points out. Washington's actions are incompatible with the norms of relations between civilised states and were condemned by the world community more than once. The United States must first of all comply with the decision of the International Court in the Hague, which provides for stopping any aid to mercenaries.

The American Administration has neither moral nor legal right to pose as an arbiter and dictate to the peoples of Central America its recipes of solving the regional conflict, the Sandinist government stresses in its communique.

### Nicaraguan Leader Calls for Talks With U.S.

*LD3006225788 Moscow TASS in English 1947 GMT 30 Jun 88*

[Text] Havana June 30 TASS—President Daniel Ortega of Nicaragua, now on an official friendly visit in Cuba, again declared for Nicaragua's peaceful talks with the United States with the aim of normalising bilateral relations. Nicaragua will demand of any U.S. Administration, Democrat or Republican, that it respect international law, abide by rulings of the World Court in The Hague, stop the war against our country and open negotiations with it, he declared. He said this when addressing Nicaraguan students studying in Cuban educational establishments.

The president spoke highly of the activity of the Contadora Group and the Group of Support and noted that their latest statement facilitated the peaceful settlement of the situation in Central America. Contadora is alive, Ortega stressed, and calls for the creation of conditions to ensure military security in the region. "As to Nicaragua, we are always ready to take the necessary steps in this direction", he stated.

### Nicaragua's Ortega Extends Cease-Fire

*LD0107232788 Moscow TASS in English 0630 GMT 1 Jul 88*

[Text] Managua July 1 TASS—The Nicaraguan Government has announced the unilateral prolongation by one more month of a provisional discontinuation of the offensive operations, displaying its readiness for the

continuation of talks with the armed opposition forces on establishing peace in the country, President Daniel Oretga of Nicaragua stated here Thursday. He spoke before officers and men of the Sandinist People's Army.

He said that this step taken by the national leadership of Nicaragua is evidence of the Republic's resolve to achieve the termination of bloodshed despite the continuing intrigues of the contras. In case of the disruption of the political settlement process the Nicaraguan people are ready to repulse in a proper way the external and internal reactionary forces, as well as a direct U.S. intervention. The Nicaraguan leader urged the population to continue to be vigilant and to consolidate the country's defenses in every way.

**Akhromeyev To Visit Cuba Early July**
*LD0207112288 Moscow TASS in English 1107 GMT 2 Jul 88*

[Text] Moscow July 2 TASS—It was announced here that Sergey Akhromeyev, head of the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces, first deputy minister of defense of the USSR and Marshal of the Soviet Union, will pay an official friendly visit to the Republic of Cuba in the first half of July this year. He was invited by Raul Castro Ruz, minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of the Republic of Cuba, General of the Army.

## Political & Social

### Politburo Discusses Conference Decisions

*LD0407190388 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 4 Jul 88*

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] A session of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo today examined certain questions connected with fulfilling the decisions of the 19th All-Union CPSU Conference. It was noted that the conference had become a major event in the life of the CPSU, in consistently pursuing the party's line toward the revolutionary renewal of Soviet society, deepening the theory and practice of restructuring, implementing a radical economic reform, and democratizing society.

In order to discuss questions on the practical implementation of the measures set out in the conference documents, and the proposals and remarks of its delegates, the Politburo has acknowledged the need to convene a plenum of the party Central Committee at the end of July 1988.

Instructions have been issued to prepare for the plenum proposals connected with implementing the reform of the political system and the democratization of party, state, and public life.

Comrades Ryzhkov, Nikonov, Maslyukov, and Murakhovskiy, with the participation of the corresponding central, republican, and local bodies, and scientific organizations, have been instructed to prepare additional measures of both an immediate and a long-term nature to increase the production and improve the supplies of foodstuffs to the population.

The Politburo stressed that the organized conduct of gathering the harvest this year—taking into account the complicated weather conditions in a number of the country's regions—is of major significance in solving this problem.

Comrades Slyunkov, Talyzin, Biryukova, Belousov, and Kamentsev, with the participation of the heads of the corresponding ministries and departments and of republican and local bodies, have been asked to examine the considerations voiced by conference delegates on increasing the production of consumer goods, widening the services rendered to the population, and improving the organization of this matter. Particular attention is attached to questions posed at the conference in connection with carrying out a radical economic reform. Comrades Ryzhkov, Maslyukov, and Voronin have been instructed to organize work on examining the specific proposals of delegates and eliminating those shortcomings revealed by the practice of implementing the reform.

Comrades Batalin, Silayev, and Voronin have been entrusted with studying the proposals of party conference delegates and working out measures to strengthen the base of the construction industry in the country, which are required to fulfill the social and production programs, particularly in rural areas.

The Politburo adopted a decision that makes it encumbent upon party committees in rural areas, and Communists and heads of local soviet bodies to immediately investigate the state of affairs in the organization of trade, the services sphere, the municipal economy, and urban transport. The need has been stressed to impose the necessary order here, and to eliminate irregularities in the supply of noncritical commodities and services and the needless queues that give rise to justified criticism on the part of the working people.

Instructions have been issued to seek additional possibilities for allocating sites for developing trade, everyday, and health services to the population, first and foremost by providing these spheres with premises occupied by administrative services.

The Politburo entrusted the Communists and heads of the union and autonomous republics Councils of Ministers, the executive committees of soviets of people's deputies, and the corresponding central departments, with imposing strict order in the distribution of food and other assets, excluding any violations and abuses during their implementation.

The CPSU Central Committee Party Control Committee and the USSR People's Control Committee should maintain constant monitoring in order to ensure that these requirements are fulfilled, in close cooperation with the Komsomol, trade union organizations, and the public.

The Politburo adopted a decision on publishing a stenographic account of the 19th All-Union CPSU Conference, which will be published and circulated in a mass edition.

In connection with the proposals voiced at the party conference, the Politburo adopted a decision to construct in Moscow a memorial to the victims of lawlessness and repressions which took place in the years of the personality cult.

The Politburo drew particular attention to the fact that all party, local soviet, state bodies, and public organizations should even now, without awaiting any instructions, act without hesitation and set about implementing those decisions of the party conference that are connected with the everyday requirements of the Soviet man in meeting the vital needs of the population and all-around concern for raising the working people's well-being.

The Politburo expressed confidence that all Communists, every labor collective, and all the working people of our country would join actively in implementing the conference decisions.

Certain other questions of party and public life were also examined at the session of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo.

### Yerevan, NKAO Enterprises Heed Strike Call

*PM0507083188 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 5 Jul 88 Morning Edition p 6*

[Own correspondent S. Bablumyan report and unattributed report under the general heading "Yesterday, 4 July"]

[Text] Yerevan—Once again it was impossible to get onto Yerevan's Theater Square. Last Sunday a thousands-strong rally was held here that continued over into Monday. Before the rally started the republic's television service organized a broadcast with the participation of party conference delegates who had arrived from Moscow. They spoke of their impressions and shared their opinions of the speeches made by the forum participants, particularly the speech by S. Arutyunyan, first secretary of the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee.

S. Ambartsumyan, rector of Yerevan University; Academician E. Dzhrbashyan of the Armenian SSR Academy of Sciences; Shch. Davtyan, secretary of Sisianskiy party raykom; and others assessed the speech by the leader of the republic party organization as objective and wholly reflecting the complex situation prevailing in the republic. The proposals voiced from the conference rostrum by S. Arutyunyan on the problem of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast [NKAO]—a problem of concern to all—were assessed as constructive. Since that is so, the speakers appealed, we should all be calm, sensible, and restrained, since only in such an atmosphere can we find a just solution.

Shortly afterward the same thing was said once again in Theater Square, where the party conference delegates had gone straight from the television studio. However, the reaction to their direct dialogue with the audience of thousands was unexpected.

After stormy debates in the square, the "strike committee" that emerged some time ago called on those present to participate in a general strike. And ultimatums were put forward to the effect that the question of Nagorno-Karabakh should be resolved immediately taking into account the positions of the recent session of the NKAO Oblast Soviet in Stepanakert, court activity in Sumgait should be placed under the jurisdiction of the USSR Supreme Court, and fuller information should be provided about the recent case of the poisoning of workers at a sewn goods factory in Masis Village—this is currently under investigation—and a number of other cases.

On Monday morning I set off to tour the city's enterprises. Some of them were not working or were working short-staffed. Tangible damage is thereby being done once again to the economy of the republic and the entire country.

All food stores, food industry enterprises, public cafeterias, medical establishments, and communications services are working. That was the position at 1400 Moscow time.

Stepanakert—IZVESTIYA's own correspondent in Baku reported 4 July that agricultural work is under way in the NKAO. But many enterprises, institutions, and organizations in Stepanakert are still not working.

### Armenians Propose Nagorno-Karabakh 'Compromise'

*LD3006121288 Belgrade TANJUG in English 0900 GMT 30 jun 88*

["Compromise Possible Over Nagorno-Karabakh"—TANJUG headline]

[Text] Moscow, June 30 (TANJUG)—For the first time since strikes and unrests broke out in the Nagorno-Karabakh region four months ago, alternatives were given today for a compromise between the demand of Nagorno-Karabakh to be reunited with Armenia and the refusal of Azerbaijan to agree to this.

In a talk with newsmen this morning, the Armenian delegates to the Soviet party conference in Moscow gave three possible solutions to the present impasse in the situation in this Soviet region.

The first is that the autonomous region of Nagorno-Karabakh come under "Presidential rule", to be termporarily administered by chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Union Andrey Gromyko. Another possibility is that the region be under the direct administration of the Supreme Soviet, and not of Azerbaijan as has been the case so far. The third compromise proposal is that Nagorno-Karabakh be temporarily annexed to the Russian Soviet Republic, i.e., to become part of the Stavropol territory, the closest territorial unit of the Russian Federation.

The Armenian delegates—the chairman of the republican Supreme Soviet, a university rector and the director of a cultural institution—believes that these are all temporary solutions and that only prolonged and patient talks, recognizing the interests of all interested sides, can result in a permanent solution.

The rector of the University of Yerevan said he did not believe that the status of an autonomous republic within Azerbaijan would satisfy the population of Nagorno-Karabakh, 76 percent of whom are Armenians. "Their chief aim is to come out of Azerbaijan", the rector said.

Explaining the roots of the crisis, the chairman of the republican Supreme Soviet said that the people of Armenia believe that the wrong decision was made in the'20's regarding the status of Nagorno-Karabakh, but that, until April 1985, this was not even to be mentioned. The launching of perestroyka, democratization and glasnost have enabled the people to openly express their thoughts and feelings.

### 20,000 Evacuated After Toxic Gas Discharge

*LD0407140588 Moscow TASS in English 1356 GMT 4 Jul 88*

[Text] Shakhunya, Gorkiy Region July 4 TASS—The night on July 3 was an alarming one for the people of that city in the north of the Gorkiy region. At zero hours 30 minutes gas billowed from a freight car on a side-track at the Shakhunya station of the Gorkiy railway. It was later established that the freight car contained 62 tons of herbicide.

A cloud hazardous for human health started settling on near-by structures. The city is situated in a depression, and the weather was cloudless.

All the possible measures of caution have urgently been taken, said first secretary of the Gorkiy regional committee of the party Gennadiy Khodyrev who went to the scene of the accident. Fire-fighters extinguished the fire of a dangerous cargo. Party and government officials, staffers of the militia, physicians and transport workers alerted by an alarm assumed the care for the evacuation of the population. All the existing transport has been used to take people to safety. In a matter of two hours some 20 thousand people were taken to a distance of 10-15 km away from the city. By midday on July 3, after specialists had carefully analysed the composition of the air, the residents of the city returned home. There is no loss of life. It is only for three firemen that medical aid was necessary.

The causes of the gas discharge are being investigated. The procurator's office instituted criminal proceedings on the case of the accident.

### Flooding in Siberia Causes Evacuation of 1,500

*LD0507081388 Moscow World Service in English 0700 GMT 5 Jul 88*

[Text] Heavy rains are in their second week in the area of Lake Baykal in Siberia. As a result, the level of the water in the local rivers has risen. Hundreds of houses in population centers are flooded. Almost 1,500 people have been evacuated from the danger zone. (?In) a number of localities torrential rains damaged railway tracks and dozens of bridges. An estimated 10,000 persons are engaged in coping with the natural disaster.